

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM 14.11

Date: February 26, 2014

Submitted by: *Laura Stephenson, Interim Dean*

SUBJECT: Biology change in the BS

Description: *The proposed change essentially reduces the core biology requirements for the B.A. degree in Biology from 23 credit hours to 20 credit hours and increases the biology elective credit hours from 21 (18 upper division) to 24 (21 upper division). The purpose for the change is to include a new course, BI 103 General Organismal Biology (5 credit hours) in the core biology requirements while removing both BI 105 General Botany (4 credit hours) and BI 110 General Zoology (4 credit hours). Courses requiring BI 105 and/or BI 110 as prerequisites will be changed to reflect the new prerequisite of BI 103. These prerequisite changes to affected courses will be accomplished through the online course change protocol.*

Rationale: *The reason for this change is to include a new course, BI 103 General Organismal Biology (5 credit hours), into the curriculum, to reduce the number of core requirements from 23 to 20 and to increase the number of biology elective courses from 21 to 24 credit hours. The number of overall credit hours for the B.S. in Biology degree will remain the same at 44 credit hours. The addition of BI 103 will provide a one-year two-course biology sequence that students will take prior to taking upper division biology courses. Many institutions provide a one-year biology course sequence for first-year students and this proposal aligns with such a model, which should aid in transferability of courses.*

Current Catalog Language: The Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Biology requires a minimum of 44 hours in Biology: the 23-hour BI core and 21 additional BI hours; 18 of these 21 hours must be upper division BI courses. The BS degree also requires a 30-hour minor to be chosen from the Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics & Statistics, or Computer Information Science). This minor must be in departments other than the major, and must have at least 20 hours in one department. Minors for the BS degree are limited to these courses: Chemistry 151 or above, Physics 261 or above, Mathematics 116 or above, Computer Science 110 or above.

Proposed Catalog Language: The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Biology requires a minimum of 44 hours in Biology: **the 20-hour BI core and 24 additional BI hours; 21 of these 24 hours must be upper division BI courses.** The B.S. degree also requires a 30-hour minor to be chosen from the Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics & Statistics, **Physics & Astronomy** or Computer Information Science). This minor must be in departments other than the major, and must have at least 20 hours in one department. Minors for the BS degree are limited to these courses: Chemistry 151 or above, Physics 261 or above, Mathematics 116 or above, Computer Science 110 or above. **The degree requires a total of 124 credits to graduate.**

Financial Implications: *None*

Proposed Effective Date: *Fall 2014.*

Request for Action: *Approval by AAC/.FAC/FS/ Gen Fac, etc*

Approved by: AAC **3-10-14**

FAC on date

Faculty Senate on date

Attachments Yes No X