

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM 14.12

Date: February 24, 2014

Submitted by: Laura Stephenson, Interim Dean

SUBJECT: Biology Change in the B.A. Degree in Biology

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 15 (12 upper division) to 18 (15 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 B1110 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 15 to 18 credit hours. The number of overall credit hours for the B.A. Biology degree will remain the same at 38 credit hours. The addition of B1103 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 Arts (BA) degree in Biology requires a minimum of 38 hours in Biology: the 23-hour BI core and 15 additional BI hours; 12 of these 15 hours must be upper division BI courses.

Proposed Catalog Language: The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Biology requires a minimum of 38 hours in Biology: **the 20-hour BI core and 18 additional BI hours; 15 of these 18 hours must be upper division BI courses. 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 on **3-10-14**

FAC on date

Faculty Senate on date

Attachments Yes No X