University Senate

Introduced by: University Planning & Policy Council

Date: April 24, 2006

PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BIOLOGY MAJOR AND MINOR

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

I. That the attached proposal be approved by the University Senate.

II. That the implementation be effective immediately.

III. That this bill be referred to the President for approval.
To: Academic Programs Committee
From: Albert Millis, Chair
Date: December 26, 2018
Subject: Request for Bulletin Revisions

The faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences have voted to support the recommendation of our Undergraduate Programs Committee to reduce the number of required laboratory courses in the BA and BS curricula. The text below (in BOLD print) reflects the changes for the 06-07 Undergraduate Bulletin. This change is necessary because the department is unable to meet the demand for lab courses. This demand is a result of increasing number of students (both resident and transfer students) declaring biology as their major and limited resources being assigned to meet the need.

Degree Requirements for the Major in Biology

General Program B.A.: Major sequence consisting of a minimum of 36 credits.

Required courses are: A Bio 110Z or 110, 111, 212; A Chm 120 or 130, 121 or 131, 122, 122; and 16 additional credits of biology major electives including ONE course which is partially or exclusively a laboratory course. A Bio 399, 399Z, 499, and 499Z may contribute up to a total of 4 credits of non-laboratory major elective credit.

General Program B.S.: Combined major and minor sequence consisting of a minimum of 66 credits.

Required courses: A Bio 110Z or 110, 111, 212, 365, 402; A Phy 105 or 140, 106 or 145, 108 or 150, 109 or 155; 6 credits in mathematics exclusive of A Mat 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 110; and A Chm 120 or 130, 121 or 131, 124, 125, 220, 221, 222, 223.

18 additional credits in biology are also required, and must include at least 2 laboratory courses.
Carolyn: Here is a copy of the message.

This is in response to your Email message to Al Millis concerning the proposal to reduce the number of lab courses required for the BS and BA degree in biology. Below is a brief outline on what the department has done to meet the demand for laboratory courses.

The number of students admitted to the following lab sections were increased during the fall 05 term: Bio 110Z, 302Z, 305, 406, and 426. These enrollments surpassed the maximum for each course.

One section of a specialized lab was scheduled to accommodate more students.

And in spring 2006, Bio 336Z admitted more students to each lab section (3). For health and safety reasons, instructors are reluctant to over subscribe enrollments in lab courses. When they do so, it is only by 1-3 students.

An additional section of Bio 315 was added to the schedule to accommodate an increased demand for this course. Part line funds from the Dean's office allowed us to schedule this additional section.

We have also had to waive one of the 3 required lab courses for many students who lacked this requirement to graduate.

Although this proposal is being driven by limited resources it is important to emphasize that Biology majors have laboratory courses in addition to the three electives (that we propose to reduce to two): in Bio 110, 111, 2 chem courses and 2 physics courses.

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