

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

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November 7, 2011

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate  
FROM: Jean Standard, Chair, University Curriculum Committee *JMS*  
RE: Executive Summary of Proposal for New Major in Biochemistry

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate consideration the attached Department of Chemistry proposal for a new degree in Biochemistry.

This program is one of two programs being proposed to replace the current Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) degree program, offered by both the School of Biological Sciences and the Department of Chemistry. The Biochemistry major within the Chemistry Department will replace the existing Biochemistry Sequence in the BMB program. Parallel with this proposal, the School of Biological Sciences is proposing a separate Molecular and Cellular Biology major. Thus, in essence, the existing BMB program will be split into two new majors, housed in the respective units, and the shared BMB major will be phased out.

The Department of Chemistry provided a rationale for proposing the new major:

- The BMB program was initiated in 2000 in order to provide student with interests in biochemistry, molecular biology, and the medical sciences fields a strong background in course work and laboratory experience at the interface between chemistry and biology.
- About two years ago, two new sequences were created within the BMB program (in addition to a General Sequence), a Biochemistry Sequence and a Molecular Biology Sequence, which are reflective of the increasing student interest in two distinct areas of inquiry.
- The proposal to create a new Major in Biochemistry is the culmination of this progression, and has been designed to provide students with a strong set of course and laboratory experiences in biochemistry.

In conjunction with this proposal, the Department of Chemistry and the School of Biological Sciences have submitted a proposal to delete the Major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Resources will be provided to continue to support the students currently enrolled in the BMB program; however the goal is for the new Major in Biochemistry, along with the new Major in Molecular and Cellular Biology proposed by the School of Biological Sciences, to replace the BMB program.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add the new B.S. Degree in Biochemistry.

Enclosures

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