ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

University Curriculum Committee

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March 6, 2013

TO: Daniel Holland, Chair, Academic Senate

FROM: Jean Standard, Chair, University Curriculum Committee *JMS*

RE: Proposal for the New Major in Biological Sciences Teacher Education

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached School of Biological Sciences proposal to create a new Major in Biological Sciences Teacher Education.

The School of Biological Sciences is proposing a Major in Biological Sciences Teacher Education to replace the Biological Sciences Teacher Certification Sequence that is currently under the Major in Biological Sciences. There is a separate proposal for deletion of the sequence.

Their rationale for making this change from a sequence to a major is that the required plan of study for the sequence is now significantly different from other sequences within the major and graduates from this program leave with a skill set that is unique to the sequence. Therefore, since the sequence has diverged so much from the major, it now qualifies to be a major on its own. Biological Science Teacher Education majors will have a unique set of requirements that set them apart from all other biology majors. The major will prepare them for a specific licensure and career.

The School indicates that no new resources will be required for the new Major in Biological Sciences Teacher Education. They also say that students in the current sequence, under earlier catalogs, will still have access to all courses necessary for them to complete the sequence.

If approved by the Academic Senate and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the new Major in Biological Sciences Teacher Education will be added to the *2014-2016 Undergraduate Catalog*, with removal of the Biological Sciences Teacher Certification Sequence at the same time. The sequence will not be removed until after the major has been approved.

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Attachments