

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 Deletion of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate consideration the attached School of Biological Sciences and Department of Chemistry proposal for deletion of the Major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, including the General Sequence, the Biochemistry Sequence and the Molecular Biology Sequence.

The Major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) is administered jointly by the School of Biological Sciences and the Department of Chemistry. The two units are cooperating to propose the deletion of the BMB major and the three sequences. The BMB program will be replaced by two separate new majors: (1) the Major in Molecular and Cellular Biology in the School of Biological Sciences, and (2) the Major in Biochemistry in the Department of Chemistry. These two new majors are variations of two of the sequences within the BMB program, the Molecular Biology Sequence and the Biochemistry Sequence. 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.

There will be little overall change in content available to students. As soon as the new majors are approved and open to students, the department and school will cease to enroll new students into the BMB major. The BMB will continue to run as it has until all students have either finished the program, or transferred to one of the new majors. They estimate that the transition may take two to four years after the new majors begin.

The proposal for deletion of the BMB program is being submitted by the School of Biological Sciences (due to the online proposal process) with a letter from the Chemistry Department chairperson expressing the support of the Department of Chemistry which has been attached to the proposal. The proposals for the new majors are being submitted in conjunction with this proposal to delete the BMB Program (Major, General Sequence, Biochemistry Sequence, and Molecular Biology Sequence). The new majors should be established before actual inactivation of the BMB program.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to delete the Major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, including the General Sequence, the Biochemistry Sequence, and the Molecular Biology Sequence.

Enclosures  
jr