

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE MASTER OF SCIENCE AND Ph.D. PROGRAMS IN  
ZOOLOGY AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to terminate the Master of Science and Ph.D. Programs in Zoology in the Graduate College.

**Executive Summary:** The request to terminate the Programs resulted from a major reorganization of biological sciences offerings at the graduate level in 2004. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact.” It also addresses Goal #8 of the Board’s Strategic Plan – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

**Background:**

- ◇ Description of program. Zoology is the branch of biology that relates to the animal kingdom, including the structure, embryology, evolution, classification, habits, and distribution of all animals, both living and extinct.
- ◇ History of program. In 2003, the Board of Regents approved Iowa State University’s request to reorganize its biological sciences. Six departments, including Botany and Zoology and Genetics were eliminated and two new departments were established – Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology and Genetics, Development and Cell Biology. As part of the reorganization, the faculties of the Botany and Zoology and Genetics departments recommended discontinuing the undergraduate programs in Botany and Zoology. In 2004, the Board approved ISU’s request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Zoology. Future students were advised to major in Biology or Genetics, depending on their interests and career goals.
- ◇ Reason for proposed termination. The termination of the graduate programs in Zoology will formally acknowledge that students have chosen other alternative graduate programs in the biological sciences. It will be consistent with the 2004 reorganization.
- ◇ Impact of proposed termination on programming. These programs have not been offered for a number of years. There are no students currently enrolled in either program.
- ◇ Impact on resources. The faculty who participated in these programs have major responsibilities in other educational programs; there are no faculty assigned to these graduate programs. Other resources were also reassigned to support different inter-departmental and departmental programs after the reorganization was implemented.
- ◇ Impact on workforce. The proposed program termination is not expected to affect the workforce needs of the state because other programming is available in the biological sciences.
- ◇ Alternative programming. Students with interest in zoology can enroll in the Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology program or other biological sciences programs at ISU; or in Biology programs at the University of Iowa or the University of Northern Iowa.

- ◇ Effect on current students. There are no students enrolled at the present time or during the past four years in the program.
- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, it will become effectively immediately.