

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** Discontinue Undergraduate Major in Zoology, Iowa State University  
**Date:** June 7, 2004

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**Recommended Action:**

Approve Iowa State University's request to discontinue the Undergraduate Major in Zoology.

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**Executive Summary:**

Result of a Reorganization      The University is requesting approval to discontinue the Bachelor degree program in Zoology. The request to discontinue is the result of the previously approved reorganization of the Biological Sciences at Iowa State – the Department of Zoology and Genetics was eliminated when the Departments of Genetics, Development and Cell Biology, and Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology were created.

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Status of Current Students      Currently enrolled students will be able to complete their degrees in Zoology (with completion by no later than Summer of 2009). The University surveyed current students in the program about the effect of a discontinuation, and no concerns were expressed and no students indicated that they would transfer to other programs or leave Iowa State as a result.

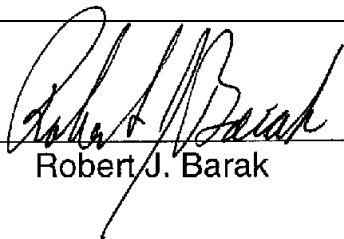
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Alternative Programs Available      Students who would be interested in the Zoology program will now enroll in an expanded Biology major; those who wish to focus on animal biology can very easily tailor their Biology degree to accomplish this goal.

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Additional information on the proposed discontinuance is attached.

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Robert J. Barak

Approved:   
Gregory S. Nichols

### Proposal for Discontinuation of the Zoology Degree

1. Name of administrator, department or group originating the proposal. Include the name of contact person(s).

This proposal is being submitted by the Biology Major Curriculum Committee, a joint committee including representatives from the Department of Genetics, Development, and Cell Biology (GDCB), and the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology (EEOB). The contact person is Dr. Jim Colbert ([jtcolber@iastate.edu](mailto:jtcolber@iastate.edu))

2. Name of the Program.

Undergraduate Major in Zoology, available through both the College of Agriculture and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

3. Name of the department(s) which administers the program.

The Departments of GDCB and EEOB

4. Rationale for discontinuation.

As of 1 July 2003, the Department of Botany and the Department of Zoology and Genetics ceased to exist on the Iowa State campus. This was part of a Regents approved reorganization of the Biological Sciences that resulted in the formation of two new departments, GDCB and EEOB. As part of the reorganization process, the faculties of the Botany and Zoology and Genetics departments voted to discontinue offering undergraduate degrees in Botany and Zoology after the current (2003-2005) catalog. Those students who would have majored in Botany or Zoology would now participate in an expanded Biology major, or in Genetics, depending on their interests and career goals.

5. Availability of similar programs at other Regent's institutions.

Undergraduate degrees in Zoology are not available at other Regents institutions. However, the courses currently used by students studying animal biology will continue to be available through the expanded Biology degree.

6. Enrollment data for current and previous four years.

#### College of Agriculture

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Number of Students*</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Min**</u>
1999-2000	33	10	23	2
2000-2001	30	7	23	2
2001-2002	35	10	25	2
2002-2003	33	9	24	2
2003-2004	29	8	21	1

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Number of Students*</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Min**</u>
1999-2000	87	28	59	5
2000-2001	78	19	59	4
2001-2002	73	18	55	4
2002-2003	73	23	50	3
2003-2004	64	20	44	6

\* Average of Fall and Spring enrollments for each academic year

\*\* Minority data available only for Fall semester

7. Information required by the Board of Regents:

- a. A survey of students currently enrolled in a program to determine the impact of the discontinuance on their academic plans. The survey should attempt to identify students who wish (i) to complete the program; (ii) to transfer to other programs at the same institution; and (iii) leave the institution.

A letter was sent to current Zoology majors on 26 January 2004 (copy of letter included below). These students will be able to complete their degrees in Zoology. Of the responses received, no concerns were expressed and no students indicated that they would transfer to other programs or leave Iowa State as a result of this discontinuation.

- b. On the basis of the data collected, a projection of faculty and staff needed to accommodate student needs in order to maintain program quality, and both a time frame for, and the costs of, program phase-out.

The undergraduate degree in Zoology is available in the current catalog, which is in force until July 2005. Therefore students could enter Iowa State with a major in Zoology as late as Summer Session 2005. Technically, such students could complete degrees in Zoology until the summer of 2009. However, we anticipate advising students to choose the Biology major beginning in Fall 2004. Courses and resources required for the Zoology major will be used in the expanded Biology major. No additional costs to phase-out the Zoology degree are anticipated.

- c. A description of the amount of money, if any, that would become available for redirection under the institution's strategic plan as a result of the discontinuance of a program.

We do not anticipate that any funds will be available for redirection as a result of discontinuing the Zoology degree. The courses taught for this degree will continue to be taught for students majoring in Biology, who wish to focus their studies on animal biology.

- d. A description of the impact the discontinuance will have on other programs offered by and the overall mission of the institution.

Providing excellent undergraduate education in biological sciences is one of the primary missions of Iowa State University. We do not expect the discontinuation of the Zoology degree to negatively affect this mission in any way. Students who wish to focus on animal biology can very easily tailor their Biology degree to accomplish this goal.

- e. A description of the impact on minorities and women.

We expect no negative impacts on minorities or women as a result of the discontinuation of the Zoology degree. Although there is a substantial percentage (70% for 2003-2004) of women currently in the Zoology major, these students will be able to complete a Zoology degree if they wish. Future female students who may have chosen the Zoology major will be able to study animal biology in the context of their Biology degree. The Biology major also has a high percentage of female students (62% in 2003-2004). Over the past five years approximately 6% of Zoology majors have been minority students. In the future, these students would major in Biology, which currently (Fall 2003) has 12% minority students, exceeding the ISU average of 8% minority students. We do not expect any decrease in opportunities available to minority students in the context of the Biology major.

- f. A description of the potential faculty and staff reductions or reassignments that would result from the discontinuance

Given that all the courses taught for the Zoology degree will continue to be taught, and those students would have been Zoology majors needing to be advised as Biology majors, we do not anticipate any reductions or reassignments of faculty or staff.

- g. A description of how existing facilities and equipment freed by the discontinuance would be utilized.

The facilities and equipment currently used in offering the Zoology degree will be used in offering the expanded Biology degree, which will serve a larger number of students.