REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER’S IN
BIOTECHNOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN IOWA

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Northern Iowa to terminate the Professional Science Master’s in Biotechnology in the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Background:

Description of program. This Professional Science Master’s (PSM) in Biotechnology degree prepared students for career opportunities in biotechnology-related businesses and industries. Emphasis was placed on combining molecular and genetic engineering skills with an understanding of business and the degree includes an internship experience.

Reason for proposed termination. The PSM in Biotechnology program was offered at UNI from 2007 to 2014. Students in the program received a high-quality education, however, there was not a significant demand for this program. To conserve university resources, the program was suspended in 2014. Since the program was suspended, it has been possible to reallocate resources toward the UNI Department of Biology Master of Science program in biology when enrollments remain healthy. Terminating the program now makes sense since because no new students have enrolled since 2014 and all existing students have graduated.

Effect on current students. There are no students currently enrolled in this program.

Impact on resources. These resources have already been reallocated.

Impact on workforce. The termination of the PSM in Biotechnology program will have minimal effect due to the very small number of students who pursued this option and with no students enrolled in the program since 2014.

Alternative programs. There are no other similar programs in the state. UNI’s current Master of Science program offers opportunities for students who want graduate education in biology.

Effective date of termination. Upon approval by the Board of Regents.