Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIOLOGY: ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Committee Action Requested: Recommend to the Board approval of the request to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Biology: Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology in the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa.

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

Description of the program: The Biology: Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology (EEOB) Bachelor of Arts degree provides training to students interested in organismal and/or ecological biology. This degree is appropriate for students interested in a career with private and governmental organizations conducting endangered species recovery, ecological restoration, biological surveys, toxicity evaluations, environmental impact analyses, field research, museum or herbarium curation, or who wish to work in zoos, nature centers, museums or botanical gardens. It also provides suitable background for students wishing to pursue graduate degrees in animal behavior, botany, conservation biology, ecology, environmental toxicology, evolutionary biology, systematics, population biology and zoology.

Reason for proposed termination: The Department of Biology is proposing a permanent change to the structure of UNI's bachelor's degrees from a BA focus to a BS model and thus proposes deactivating this program. The current Biology BS degree has three emphases--integrative biology, biomedical and EEOB. The only curricular change is the requirement of undergraduate research to earn the Biology BS with an EEOB emphasis. Many students enrolled in the current Biology EEOB BA are already engaging in research with faculty; the change will formalize this experience.

Effect on current students: Any current applicants or enrolled students can be easily accommodated by either choosing to do research and thus earning the BS degree or deciding not to engage in research and earn a BA. UNI will also maintain a general Biology BA degree option.

Enrollment and Completion Trends:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Majors	29	33	46	38	45
Graduates	7	6	15	7	10

Impact on resources: There will be no effect on costs resulting from reducing enrollment, staffing and resource allocations. This population of students will switch to the amended BS degree with EEOB emphasis. All courses and staffing will remain the same.

Impact on workforce: This change will not impact workforce needs since the Biology BS with EEOB emphasis option will exist. Ensuring that all students engage in a high-quality research experience will improve graduates' workforce and graduate school preparedness.

Alternative programs: All universities and colleges offer a bachelor's degree in biology. This is a standard degree offered in the liberal arts and sciences.

Date of Implementation: Upon approval of the Board of Regents.