MEMORANDUM

TO: President Ray M. Bowen

SUBJECT: Approval of the Reinstatement of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology

At its regular meeting on September 13, 1999, the Faculty Senate approved the following proposal from the University Curriculum Committee. Attached are the materials sent to our Senators regarding this item.

Nonsubstantive Degree Program Request

College of Science
Department of Biology
Reinstatement of B.S. in Biology

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please inform me of your action for this request.

Thomas E. Wehrly
Speaker, 1999-2000

Attachments

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President & Provost
    Dr. Janis P. Stout, Dean of Faculties & Associate Provost
    Dr. R. Bruce Simpson, Chair, University Curriculum Committee
    Ms. Linda F. Lacey, Director of Academic Support Services

Approved:

Ray M. Bowen, President

Date 10/16/99
Report of the University Curriculum Committee
August 13, 1999

Nonsubstantive Degree Program Request

College of Science
Department of Biology
Reinstatement of B.S. in Biology
June 25, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Curriculum Committee

THROUGH: H. Joseph Newton, Exec. Assoc. Dean  
College of Science UCC Representative

THROUGH: Terry Thomas Department Head  
Biology Department

FROM: Timothy Scott, Director

SUBJECT: Reinstatement of B.S. Biology Degree Plan

On January 8, 1999, the faculty in the Department of Biology voted unanimously to request the reinstatement of the B.S. Biology Degree plan. As you recall, this degree was changed to the B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology in 1992, to reflect the appropriate focus. At that time, general biology electives were narrowed to focus on molecular aspects.

In recent years, with the advent of changing minor requirements, persons in our BA Biology are under added pressure to enroll in more courses to guarantee that they will complete the degree requirements, as well as the minor requirements. Persons most adversely affected have been our students seeking teaching certification.

As you know, education does not grant minors to persons completing certification requirements. Students who complete degree requirements, teacher certification requirements and minor requirements must enroll in excessive hours. This seems to be in direct conflict with the university and legislature, which have mandated a 170 hour cap.

Secondary certification is so important and vital to the State of Texas, and I feel strongly that we not penalize students electing this option. We are therefore requesting that we keep the B.A. Biology degree plan, for students who would like a general biology background, balanced with foreign language and electives in a given minor field. The B.S. in Biology would provide a solid background in the biological sciences without requiring a minor. The biology courses would come from the various areas of biology (botany, microbiology, zoology, cell biology, and ecology).

Unlike other B.S. degrees in the Biology Department, this degree would provide a broad background in the field of biology, rather than focus on one specific area (e.g., B.S. Molecular/Cellular Biology, B.S. Botany, B.S. Microbiology and B.S. Zoology).

Thank you for your time and assistance.

xc: Jeanette Phariss, Assistant Provost
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the President

October 7, 1999

Memo to: Dr. Thomas E. Wehrly

The attached has been approved and is returned for further handling.

Ray M. Bowen

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas
    Dr. Janis P. Stout
    Dr. R. Bruce Simpson
    Ms. Linda F. Lacey