

Resolution to Establish a Stand-Alone Major: B.S. in Marine Biology

Resolution #34-11/12-ICC – March 27, 2011

Resolved: That the University Senate of Humboldt State University recommends to the Provost that the Marine Biology Emphasis of the B.S. in Biology be elevated to a stand-alone major: B.S. in Marine Biology as described curriculum form 10-364,; and be it further

Resolved: That the associated new course forms and changes to the existing Marine Biology emphasis described in curriculum forms 11-311, 11-312, and 11-313 be approved; and be it further

Resolved: That new the Major will be available to students beginning with the first year that it appears in the HSU Catalog, and that the new Major will be included in the HSU catalog as soon as possible after Chancellor's Office approval; and be it further

Resolved: That the program, the Dean, and the Provost shall negotiate appropriate benchmarks for the program.

Rationale: Offering a new Major (or elevating an existing option to a stand-alone major) requires Chancellor's Office approval, which can take several years to receive. The Biological Sciences Department has been working towards a BS in Marine Biology for some time now. As an interim step towards elevating Marine Biology to a stand-alone major, in Fall of 2011, the Senate approved curriculum changes to the Marine Biology Emphasis of the BS in Biology so that the current curriculum would match that which was proposed for the new major (Resolution #09-11/12-ICC). Since that time, an external reviewer has read the new-major proposal; some of the recommendations from that review have been incorporated into the current version of the new major, and thus, the existing emphasis is also being changed to reflect those revisions. Once the chancellor's office approves the stand-alone Marine Biology major, the existing Marine Biology emphasis will be eliminated.

Current enrollment in the emphasis is over 200 students, with only about 20 graduating each year. The program has no desire to increase their enrollment. Instead the changes to the curriculum are designed to increase student success and retention, to increase integration with other marine programs on campus, and to allow the program to give students a research experience in a less costly and more effective format. The program has proposed a graduation target of 35 graduates each year.

The following curriculum proposals are available on the ICC SharePoint site:

10-364: BS in Marine Biology Proposal

11-311: BIOL 418: Marine Microbiology new course proposal, 3 units, 2 of C-1, 1 of C-16, offered every other Fall

11-312: Biology Program Change – Marine Biology emphasis Changes to the option curriculum to add BIOL 418 as a optional course

11-313: Biology Program Change – Microbiology emphasis – add BIOL 418: Marine Microbiology as an optional course (students take BIOL 433 or 418)

University Senate: Passed Unanimously, 03/27/12

Provost Snyder: Approved, 4/12/12