



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Memo to: CENS Curriculum Committee Members, University Curriculum Committee Members

From: Cell, Molecular and Microbiology Group, Department of Biological Sciences

Date: February 1, 2005

Re: Proposed curriculum revisions for Microbiology BS program

The NAU Department of Biological Sciences offers a Bachelors of Science Degree in Microbiology. The current Microbiology program consists of two emphases, Pre-Health Professions and General Microbiology. The Cell, Molecular and Microbiology (CMMB) group of the department is charged with periodic review and oversight of the Microbiology program curriculum. Recently attempts have been made by the CMMB group to update the program in order to offer our students more flexible curricular options and degree options ideally suited for entry into 21st century careers or graduate programs. We are therefore proposing to modify the two emphasis areas within the program; the modified emphases will be titled, "Biomedical Microbiology" and "Applied and Environmental Microbiology". Curricular requirements within each modified emphasis area have been revised, with pivotal new courses being developed and a few key substitutions also planned.

We are submitting as a package the paperwork for all of the proposed changes, so that they can be considered together and in the appropriate context. Enclosed in this package please find 1) a plan change proposal 2) individual letters of support from chairs of outside departments who have courses we plan to list as electives 3) a copy of the senior capstone coversheet and proposal (original being sent to University Liberal Studies Committee for approval, along with copy of this letter) 4) four separate proposal forms for new courses 5) two separate course deletion proposals and 6) one proposal for a course change.

We strongly feel that the proposed changes to the Microbiology BS program will strengthen the preparation our students receive, increase our enrollments, and lead to enhanced opportunities for undergraduate research. Thank you in advance for considering our proposed modifications; we would greatly appreciate inclusion on your agenda as soon as possible. Please contact Maribeth Watwood, our group representative, at 523-9322 (maribeth.watwood@nau.edu) if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Signature indicating Chair's approval for curricular modification package:

Lee Drickamer, Chair, Biological Sciences