

## University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

Chair: Alistair Welchman

Members: Liang Tang, Gregory Hazleton, Pepe Chang, Raymond Garza, Martha Fasci, Brian Davies, Turgay Korkmaz

### *Summary*

There are two proposals before the committee:

1. A proposal for a B.S. in Biology with a Concentration in 7-12 Biology Teacher Certification
2. Approval for discontinuing the BA degree program in Infancy and Childhood Studies (BAAS)

The Committee recommends that the Senate vote to approve the proposal for a B.S. in Biology with a Concentration in 7-12 Biology Teacher Certification (6 for, 0 against with 2 abstentions) and that the Senate approve discontinuing the BAAS degree program (6 for, 0 against with 2 abstentions).

### *BS in Biology with Teaching Concentration*

The Department of Biology proposes a new BA program specifically tailored to students who intend to become biology teachers in Texas public secondary educational institutions. Such students require 7-12 life science teaching certification that involves a number of education and other related courses in addition to a thorough grounding in the biology curriculum.

The proposal is part of the UTeach program that originated at UT Austin and is part of a UTSA initiative to develop new degree programs for STEM related teaching certification.

It involves relatively few changes to the regular Biology degree curriculum: 5 courses have been deleted, 4 courses are not required instead of being electives, STA 1053 (Basic Statistics) is substituted for MAT 1193 (Calculus), and all free electives have been filled with UTeach and education courses. The UTeach courses are the only new courses. The whole degree requires 126 semester credit hours.

UTSA already has approval to offer the BS degree in Biology and the Life Science (Grades Level 7-12) educator preparation program, and there's no need to apply to the Coordinating Board for this; but permission is required to exceed the 120 semester credit hour limit.

The Committee reviewed the documentation provided and had some questions about:

1. The number of hours students currently need to take a Biology degree and certification;
2. Anticipated enrollment;
3. The very large loads on students (four 3-credit courses + two 2-credit lab courses in some semesters).

We approached the Biology Department who were very helpful about these issues. Prof. Martha Lundell, Biology, provided the following information:

1. students currently have to take about 150 hours to get a BA in Biology and separate certification;
2. Currently 10-15 students acquire certification and separate degrees in Biology. The proposers expect this number to increase with the streamlined format, but not drastically.
3. 'The schedule does have some very dense semesters; this is because of four different program requirements.
  - a. Biology has a pre-Biology program that must be completed within 60 SCH.
  - b. UTeach courses must be completed in a particular sequence.
  - c. The Texas Education Association requires that students complete their core curriculum requirements before starting their Junior year.
  - d. In the last semester when students are doing their student teaching the COEHD does not allow students to take any other courses.

All of these restrictions make for a quite complicated puzzle. Although the students do have a large load their first two years, things ease up in the last four semesters. Also many students interested in teaching come in with transfer credit from high school or junior college.'

#### *BA degree program in Infancy and Childhood Studies*

In accordance with HOP 2.38, the College of Education and Human Development set up an independent program review committee to evaluate the BA degree program in Infancy and Childhood Studies. The committee voted to discontinue the program due to declining enrollments. The program was initially set up with a grant to fund community college students to transfer to UTSA to complete a BA degree after taking a technical program. Since the grant money is no longer available, interest from this student population has declined; and native UTSA students cannot enroll because the program requires 36h of technical work at community college. No faculty positions will be lost by discontinuation and the College has a plan for 'teaching-out' the remaining students. To serve future students the College intends to develop a new BA in Multicultural Early Childhood Development.