

# **ACTION ITEM #12(e)**

## **Extension of Bachelor's Degree (Erica Weintraub Austin)**

May 6, 2016

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Bachelor's Degree

**PROPOSED:** That the Board of Regents approve extension of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology to the WSU Tri-Cities Campus

**SUBMITTED BY:** Erica Weintraub Austin, Interim Co-Provost

**SUPPORTING  
INFORMATION:**

The School of Biological Sciences proposes to extend its Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology to the WSU Tri-Cities campus.

The Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree in Biology offers students a strong foundation in the biological sciences while developing critical thinking and communication skills through a range of diverse experiences in the classroom, laboratory, and in the field. The degree is designed to allow students to shape a program of study through a selection of electives.

Students that enroll in the program will be primarily interested in one of two career areas: (i) health-related careers – pre-med, pre-vet, pre-dent, pre-therapy, and pre-nursing, or (ii) a career in a scientific laboratory/field environment including those wishing to pursue a MS or PhD degree.

All courses for the degree will be available via face-to-face offerings on the WSU Tri-Cities campus. Some elective classes will be offered via AMS. Currently, the Pullman, Vancouver and Tri-Cities campuses deliver biology courses to each other through AMS allowing for a greater selection of electives for students.

For several years, the Tri-Cities campus has offered general science degrees. Campus growth over the past several years indicates increasing interest in, and demand for degrees with more clearly developed curricula and standard degree titles. The general science degrees do not meet student or faculty expectations for program quality. As of Fall 2014, WSU Tri-Cities had 63 students certified in general science – biological science, with 23 additional students expected to certify by

the end of the semester. There are currently 45 students who have not certified but have expressed a strong interest in majoring in biology. WSU Tri-Cities has been planning for this degree program for some time and has added faculty to accommodate program growth. The program will follow the current curriculum for the “general option” in the BS Biology program offered by the School of Biological Sciences.

WSU Tri-Cities has a collaborative relationship with Columbia Basin College (CBC) to support transfer planning and advising of students. This program, known as Bridges, provides early admission, advising, and support to CBC students who intend to transfer to WSU Tri-Cities.

At a meeting on March 1, 2016, the Academic Affairs Committee approved the proposal to extend the Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology to the WSU Tri-Cities campus with an effective date of fall 2016.

The following were noted and addressed during the review process:

- Only the General Option will be extended at this time
- No changes were made to the existing curriculum

The proposal has support from the Provost, Budget Committee, Catalog Subcommittee, and the Library Committee. This recommendation was passed by the Faculty Senate on March 31, 2016.