

RECEIVED OCT - 3 2007

PROPOSAL FOR COURSE CHANGE

To: Curriculum Committee

From: Department of Biological Sciences

Date Submitted: September 28, 2007

Request for: Course change _____ Course deletion _____ Course addition X

Submitted by:

Bruce L. Tedford

Approved by: Department Head

Charli Lazenby

Approved by: Dean of School

Al Kaloon

Reviewed by: Registrar

Gammy Kudo

V.P. Academic Affairs _____

I. Catalog description:

BIOL 2881-4. Special Topics in Biology. On demand. Prerequisites: consent of the instructor. This course offers specialized instruction in an area of biological sciences that is not otherwise covered in the curriculum. The focus of the course will vary from offering to offering, thus the course may be taken more than once.

Number:

BIOL 2881-4

2881

2882

2883

Title:

Special Topics in Biology

2884*

Title for Course Inventory: Special Topics in Biology

Description:

On demand. Prerequisites: consent of the instructor. This course offers specialized instruction in an area of biological sciences that is not otherwise covered in the curriculum. The focus of the course will vary from offering to offering, thus the course may be taken more than once.

Effective date or term:

~~Spring 2008~~ Summer 1, 2008

Course fees:

Course fees will vary with the nature of the offering that semester.

* BIOL2884 \$10 lab fee

app CC 10/22/07
app FS 11/12/07

II. Justification and feasibility:

- A. Need? The field of biology is rapidly changing. The department needs to have a course designation such as this to allow faculty an opportunity to experiment with innovative offerings that best serve student needs.
- B. Overlap? Our department currently offers an upper-level, advanced topics course that is similar in that the content is flexible. However, not all of the courses that could benefit students are necessarily appropriate for upper level credit.
- C. Part of Plan? This course developed directly from the department's plan to be able to offer different types of instruction in a timely fashion.
- D. How Often? The course will be offered as needed.
- E. Staffing? Depending on the topic of interest, the course will be staffed either by Biological Sciences faculty or by qualified adjunct instructors. The offering of this course will depend on both need and availability of qualified staff.
- F. Affect others? We have not consulted other departments because the changes are not expected to significantly impact other departments.
- G. Assessment integration? The department faculty has determined that one of its educational objectives is for graduates to "...demonstrate mastery of core biological concepts and principles similar to that of biology graduates from around the country." This course allows the faculty to offer unique topics in a timely fashion (when such a need is identified), or when unique resources to offer a topic become available. The Major Field Achievement Test (ETS) will be used to measure outcomes. Our goal is to have our students to average within $\pm 5\%$ of the national average in four sub-score areas.