UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602
univcouncil@uga.edu
www.uga.edu

University Council

January 17, 2020

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2019-2020
John Maerz, Chair
Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Nicholas Fuhrman
Arts and Sciences – Jonathan Evans (Arts)
Trenton Schirmer (Sciences)
Business – Richard Gooner
Ecology – Amanda Rugenski
Education – Morgan Faison
Engineering – E.W. Tollner
Environment and Design – Brad Davis
Family and Consumer Sciences – Patricia Hunt-Hurst
Forestry and Natural Resources – Joseph Dahlen
Journalism and Mass Communication – James Hamilton
Law – Randy Beck
Pharmacy – Michelle McElhannon
Public and International Affairs – Jeffrey Berejikian
Public Health – Brittani Harmon
Social Work – Harold Briggs
Veterinary Medicine – Susan Sanchez
Graduate School – Amy Medlock
Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu
Undergraduate Student Representative – Melissa Hevener
Graduate Student Representative – Jordan Henley

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute to terminate the major in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (Ph.D.) will be an agenda item for the January 24, 2020, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

PROPOSAL FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: September 17, 2019

School/College: Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute

Department/Division: Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute

Program (Major and Degree): Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (Ph.D.)

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Last date students will be admitted to this program: No new students will be admitted

Last date students will graduate from this program: No students are enrolled
Note: There may be no enrollment in the program as of the termination effective date.

Program Abstract:

This termination proposal is to close the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBS) Ph.D. program. The goal of the IBS program is the education and training of biomedical and health scientists, with a focus on understanding the basic and applied aspects of biomedical phenomena. The program recognizes that the biomedical and health sciences have become very broad in scope and may draw as needed from traditional disciplines as unlikely as journalism and agricultural sciences. Within this goal, our mission is to provide students with a wide array of research opportunities in several more focused curricula, while assuring that all students receive core training in molecular sciences, communication skills and scientific ethics.

For Deactivated or Terminated Programs:

1. State the reasons for deactivating or terminating the program, and provide copies of any relevant documents.

The Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBS) Ph.D. Program was initially conceived as a part of the BHSI (Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute) mission to support biomedical instruction and research through interdisciplinary education. Importantly, the program had a requirement of a program of study that could not be supported in an existing graduate program, which constrained both faculty and student interest. Interdisciplinary education is a continuing goal at UGA; however, there are several parallel initiatives across campus supporting these goals, limiting interest in the IBS program. For example, the Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate program is a customizable Ph.D. program that emphasizes interdisciplinary research and translational science. As a second example, the Integrated Life Sciences program allows first-year graduate students to explore the research areas of 14 participating Ph.D. graduate programs, supporting opportunities for broad graduate training within existing degree programs. The IBS degree program is a low performing major with an average of less than one degree conferred per year. With the availability of other options to address interdisciplinary biomedical sciences training, the IBS degree program should be terminated.

2. What will be done to minimize the impact of the deactivation or termination of the program upon the personal and professional lives of the faculty and staff involved? Include specific information on: a) how faculty and staff will be notified of the deactivation or termination, and b) how faculty and staff will be reallocated.

Members of BHSI will be made aware of the change to the program by email. This change will not affect their personal or professional lives.

3. What will be done to insure that deactivation or termination of the program does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?

This change will not weaken any other programs. The BHSI oversees the Neuroscience (Ph.D.) and Master of Biomanufacturing and Bioprocessing (M.B.B.) programs. Neither program overlaps with IBS. The historically low enrollment suggests closing of this program will not negatively impact other programs on campus. Indeed, the removal of IBS will eliminate the confusion with the Integrated Life Sciences program, which is a positive outcome of terminating IBS.

For Deactivated Programs:

4. State the plans for allowing students currently enrolled in the program to complete degree requirements, including specific information on: a) how students will be notified of the program deactivation, and b) how students will be advised on completing the program.

Not applicable; no students are enrolled in the degree program.

5. What plans, if any, are there for subsequent reactivation of the deactivated program?

There are no plans to reinstate the program.

Approvals on File

Proposal: Terminate the Major in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (Ph.D.)

College: Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute

Department: Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2020

School/College:

- Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute Interim Director, Dr. David Lee, 9/17/19
- Vice President for Research, Dr. David Lee, 9/17/19

Graduate School:

- Graduate School Interim Dean, Dr. Ron Walcott, 11/22/19