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TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY-SAN MARCOS
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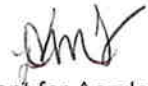
FEB 28 2008

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Perry Moore
 Provost

VIA: Dr. Hector Flores 
 Dean of Science

Dr. Debbie Thorne 
 Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Joseph R. Tomasso, Jr.
 Chair of Biology

SUBJECT: Deletion of degree programs

DATE: February 26, 2008



The Faculty of the Department of Biology voted on August 17, 2007 to delete several majors. This action was supported by the College of Science Curriculum Committee on September 27, 2007. I concur with the action. All of the programs requested for deletion are either underperforming, marginally performing or cannot meet the 120 hour maximum hour requirement. The undergraduate majors retained by the Department offer ample opportunity for students to pursue degrees in Biology.

I request that the University delete the following programs from the degree inventory:

Degree	Major	# Graduates in last 3 years
BA	Biology	24
BA	Biology-Aquatic Biology	1
BA	Biology-Botany	0
BS	Biology-Botany	5
BA	Biology-General Physiology	0
BS	Biology-General Physiology	1
BA	Biology-Microbiology	0
BA	Biology-Wildlife Biology	4
BA	Biology-Zoology	3
BS	Biology-Zoology	9

The Department will retain the following undergraduate degree programs:

BS	Biology
BS	Biology-Aquatic Biology
BS	Biology-Microbiology
BS	Biology-Wildlife Biology

We request that the majors proposed for deletion be closed to new students as soon as possible. We will continue to teach all courses required for the programs proposed for deletion since those courses are also a part of the remaining curricula.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

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Some points to consider when evaluating this request:

- The Department of Biology did not request the majors proposed for deletion. In the mid-1980s, the Department requested areas of emphasis which, instead, were approved as majors.
- The Department will retain four majors which will provide students with a range of choices. Those choices are comparable to those offered at other Texas institutions.
- The faculty considers degrees in Botany, Zoology, and General Physiology to be too specialized for undergraduates.
- The current BA curricula already does not require enough natural science. Cutting the program to the 120 hour maximum would eliminate more natural science (probably the complete year of physics). This would put the BA graduates at a tremendous disadvantage for graduate school or for employment in a science field.
- The curriculum for the BS in Biology is flexible enough to allow students, if they choose, to take the same courses in the curricula proposed for deletion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I will be happy to provide any further information you may like to have.