



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Terminate graduate program: Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology Concentration within the MS and PhD in Biology

SPONSOR: Evan H. DeLucia, Professor and Director, School of Integrative Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; 333-6177; delucia@illinois.edu

COLLEGE CONTACT: Karen Carney, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; kmcarney@illinois.edu, 3-1530

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The graduate program in Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology is an interdepartmental graduate program administered by the School of Integrative Biology. This proposal is to terminate this program in its entirety.

JUSTIFICATION: In its heyday this interdepartmental graduate program trained doctoral students in areas of plant physiology and molecular biology, and administered a seminar series. Faculty in the Department of Plant Biology (LAS) and in Crop Science (ACES) supervised most students in the program. Expertise in these disciplines, particularly molecular biology, is now represented within participating departments and students receive training in these disciplines within their respective departments. The program has outlived its usefulness and stopped admitting students in 2010. The two students remaining in the program will graduate this May (2013). The joint plant biology-crop science seminar series continues to be vibrant and well attended; this series will continue with joint sponsorship of the two departments. The Department of Crop Science supports this proposal (see attached letter).

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: none

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2013

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Remove the Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology page from the Graduate Programs of Study.

CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

Signatures:

Stephen Moose
Unit Representative: Stephen Moose, Program Director

10/26/2012
Date:

Evan DeLucia
Unit Representative: Evan DeLucia, SIB Director

10/29/12
Date:

Karen M. Carver
College Representative:

4-22-13
Date:

Aljando Lugo
Graduate College Representative:

9-26-2013
Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Crop Sciences

AW-101 Turner Hall
1102 South Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801-4798



July 17, 2012

Dr. Evan DeLucia
265 Morrill Hall MC-116

Dear Dr. DeLucia:

This letter is in support of the proposal for terminating the Physiological and Molecular Plant Physiology (PMPB) graduate program. This program is collaboration between the departments of Plant Biology and Crop Sciences. It was started when there was not yet enough critical mass in molecular biology in either Crop Sciences or Plant Biology to effectively recruit talented graduate students interested in this research area. That is not the case now, as both departments have made faculty hires in the molecular biology/genomics area and they have been effective at recruiting graduate students.

Originally, funding was available to PMPB from the Colleges of ACES and LAS to help with recruiting and that kept faculty engaged. Today those funds are not available to support this program.

The bottom line is, once Crop Sciences and Plant Biology both strengthened their graduate programs in molecular genetics, PMPB was competing for the same type of students, and was at a disadvantage in both recruiting and serving the enrolled students compared to the departmental programs. Effectively, graduate student enrollment in the program ceased in 2009. The fact that Crop Sciences student numbers and quality have increased since then is testament that PMPB isn't really needed now.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James R. Boyer".

Professor and Head
Department of Crop Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.14.10

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



September 30, 2013

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to eliminate the Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology concentration from the MS and PhD in Biology.

The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as the Graduate College Executive Committee. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristi A. Kuntz".

Kristi A. Kuntz
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Carney
E. DeLucia
M. Lowry

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Graduate College

204 Coble Hall
801 South Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6210

Executive Committee

September 25, 2013

2012-2013 Members

Debasish Dutta, *Chair*

Members

Barry Ackerson

David Ceperley

Lin-Feng Chen

Kent Choquette

Jennifer Cole

Brooke Elliott

Susan Garnsey

David Hays

Christine Jenkins

Ashleigh Jones

Tina Matula

Ramona Oswald

Yoon Pak

Joseph Rosenblatt

Alex Winter-Nelson

Assata Zerai

Kristi Kuntz
Office of the Provost
207 Swanlund MC-304

Dear Kristi,

Enclosed please find a proposal to "Terminate the Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology Concentration within the MS and PhD in Biology."

The Graduate College Executive Committee has approved this proposal. I send it to you now for further review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alejandro Lugo".

Alejandro Lugo
Associate Dean, Graduate College

c: A. Kopera
M. Lowry

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

RECEIVED
APR 22 2013
GRADUATE COLLEGE

Office of the Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
294 Lincoln Hall
702 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801-3631



April 22, 2013

Andrea Golato
Associate Dean
Graduate College
204 Coble Hall MC-322

Dear Dean Golato:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula on behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

**Terminate graduate program: Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology
Concentration within the MS and PhD in Biology**

Please address all correspondence concerning this proposal to me. This proposal is now ready for review by the Graduate College for proposed implementation upon approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen M. Carney".

Karen M. Carney
Associate Dean

enclosure

C: Professor Evan DeLucia

Name of existing Illinois (UIUC) degree: _____

Name of non-Illinois partnering institution: _____

Location of non-Illinois partnering institution:

State of Illinois US State: _____ Foreign country: _____

- B. Proposal to create a new academic unit (college, school, department, program or other academic unit):

Name of proposed new unit: _____

- C. Proposal to rename an existing academic unit (college, school, department, or other academic unit):

Current name of unit: _____

Proposed new name of unit: _____

- D. Proposal to reorganize existing units (colleges, schools, departments, or program):

1. Proposal to change the status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department)

Name of current unit including status: _____

2. Proposal to transfer an existing unit:

Current unit's name and home: _____

Proposed new home for the unit: _____

3. Proposal to merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B):

Name and college of unit one to be merged: _____

Name and college of unit two to be merged: _____

Proposed name and college of new (merged) unit: _____

4. Proposal to terminate an existing unit:

Current unit's name and status: _____

- E. **Other educational policy proposals** (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.)

Nature of the proposal: _____

Revised 10/2012