



Academic Senate

17/AS/19/GC

Biological Sciences M.S. Pilot Program Proposal

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California State University, Stanislaus approve the attached Biological Sciences M.S. Pilot Program Proposal.

RATIONALE:

The Department of Biological Sciences has desired to develop a Master's program broadly focused on the biological sciences for several years. Most recently, the Department has pursued a proposal to modify the M.S. in Ecology and Sustainability to the M.S. in Biological Sciences. This title change and modification was approved at the department, college, and university levels in Fall 2018; however, the change was denied by the Chancellor's Office (CO) in early March 2019 with the explanation that the change was substantial enough (title and curriculum modification) that it should be a new program proposal. With the support of the Division of Academic Affairs, the Department decided to propose a new academic program using an expedited process, the Pilot Program approval process, whereby an academic program is approved at the local level (requiring Department, College, Dean, Grad Council, Academic Senate, Provost, and President approval), but does not require prior review and comment by the CO. The program is then authorized to operate for up to 5 years. If the campus decides to convert the pilot program to regular program status, the campus will follow the appropriate CO procedures for conversion. The pilot program process is only to be used in cases where the new program will not require additional resources and is in alignment with campus academic priorities. The pilot program proposal for the M.S. in Biological Sciences is unchanged from the proposal to modify the M.S. in Ecology and Sustainability that was already approved at the Department, College, Graduate Council, and AVPAA levels over the past 6 months. The program already has all necessary resources in place to be successful: courses are already on the 2019-20 schedules, with faculty in place to teach them; a program director with reassigned time is already appointed; and potential students are available and ready to apply.

Approved by the Academic Senate on 05/07/19

Approved by President Junn on 05/24/19