Resolution #17 2010-2011
College Senate

TO: Dr. John R. Halstead, College President

FROM: The College Senate: March 21, 2011

RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
   II. Recommendation (Urging the Fitness of)
   III. Other, For Your Information (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJ: Honors Program in Biology (routing #25_10-11UC)

Signed: Date: 4/1/11

(Jose R. Torre, 2010-11, College Senate President)

Please fill out the bottom portion and follow the distribution instructions at the end of this page.

TO: Jose R. Torre, College Senate President

FROM: John R. Halstead, College President

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle choice)
   a. Accepted - Implementation Effective Date: Immediately
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on / / 
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI
   a. Received and acknowledged / / 
   b. Comment:

Signed: Date: 4/5/11

(Dr. John R. Halstead, President, The College at Brockport)

DISTRIBUTION

Upon approval, the College President will forward copies of resolutions to his staff who will, in turn, forward copies to their staff. The College Senate Office will post resolutions to the College Senate Web at http://www.brockport.edu/collegesenate/resolutions.
#25_10-11UC

COLLEGE SENATE OFFICE
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 28

Incomplete proposals or proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

INSTRUCTIONS – please, no multiple attachments – each proposal must be submitted electronically as one document.

• Submit only complete proposals. Include support letters from department chair and dean.
• Proposals must be prepared individually in Word format using committee guidelines available at brockport.edu/collegesenate/proposal.html.
• Fill out this cover page for each proposal and insert it electronically as the front page of your document. (/collegesenate/proposal.html)
• Email whole proposal with cover page as one document to senate@brockport.edu and facprez@brockport.edu.
• All updates must be resubmitted to the Senate office with the original cover page including routing number.
• Questions? Call the Senate office at 395-2586 or the appropriate committee chairperson.

1. PROPOSAL TITLE: Please be somewhat descriptive, ie. Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal rather than Graduate Proposal.
   Honors Program in Biology

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:
   The Biology department wishes to establish a departmental honors program that will engage exceptional students in independent research activities culminating in a Senior Thesis to be presented at Scholar’s Day or another appropriate forum.

3. WILL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AFFECTING BUDGET BE NEEDED? _X_ NO ___ YES  EXPLAIN YES

4. HOW WILL THIS EFFECT TRANSFER STUDENTS:
   N/A

5. ANTICIPATED EFFECTIVE DATE:
   Immediately

6. SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES: PLEASE PUT A DATE ON ALL UPDATED DOCUMENTS TO AVOID CONFUSION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Submission</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/21/11</td>
<td>2/17/11</td>
<td>2/24/11</td>
<td>3/2/11</td>
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7. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Cook</td>
<td>BIO</td>
<td>395-5757</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcook@brockport.edu">lcook@brockport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing Committee</th>
<th>Forwarded For Approval To</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>__Enrollment Planning &amp; Policies</td>
<td>Committee for approval</td>
<td>1/21/11, 2/17/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__Faculty &amp; Professional Staff Policies</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>2/21/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__General Education &amp; Curriculum Policies *</td>
<td>GED to Vice Provost</td>
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<tr>
<td>__Graduate Curriculum &amp; Policies</td>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>2/28/11, PASSED 3/21/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>__Student Policies</td>
<td>College President</td>
<td>OTHER</td>
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<tr>
<td>xxUndergraduate Curriculum &amp; Policies</td>
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<td>REJECTED -WITHDRAWN</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* follow special Gen Ed procedures for submission of General Education proposals at “How to Submit Proposals” on our Website.

NOTES: 3/21/11 MINUTES: V.A. – slight change: “At least 3 credits” rather than “> 5 credits.” (>5 credits). Under First Semester Transfer Students: “Junior (> 54 credits) and Transfer Students with a semester (12 credits) in residence require >= 3.25 GPA to apply. These students must complete BIO 490 (>=5 credits) and BIO 497 Honors Thesis (1 credit).”
PROPOSAL FOR
AN UNDERGRADUATE
HONORS PROGRAM IN BIOLOGY

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Honors B.S. Program in Biology is intended to enrich the learning experience of academically superior students by fostering communication and collaboration amongst students and research faculty on research projects in the biological sciences. The program is designed to give students hands-on experience with the latest cellular and molecular technologies including fluorescence microscopy, microplate assays, tissue culture, recombinant DNA technology through a multi-semester independent research experience. Research projects will ultimately be presented at local, regional and even national scientific meetings with the mentor and collaborating lab members. This team-focused approach to science engenders a sense of community among students and provides a framework for future collaborative efforts. The program culminates in a senior year Honors Thesis based on their research project.

ADMISSION

Prior to the start of classes a select group first year students who present Regent’s scores of \( \geq 90 \) in biology and \( \geq 85 \) in chemistry, and SAT MATH \( \geq 600 \) will be invited to join the Biology Honors Degree Program. These students need not apply; they simply must indicate a willingness to join.

Matriculated students (first year students through first semester juniors) may apply to the Biology Honors Degree. These students must have GPAs of \( \geq 3.25 \) overall and in all science/math courses. A simple application, available from the department office, must be completed.

Transfer student who are first year students through first semester juniors and who present a transfer GPA of \( \geq 3.50 \) overall and in all science/math classes are eligible for the Honors Degree.

PROPOSED NEW COURSES

**BIO 290 INTRODUCTION TO HONORS RESEARCH** (2 credits) – Provides an introduction to scientific research laboratory and the scientific method. Cellular & molecular techniques will be introduced in the context of a developing thesis proposal. Six hours per week is to be arranged with the faculty mentor. Only students with <54 college credits may register.

**BIO 490 HONORS RESEARCH** (1-3 cr/semester) - Provides an independent research experience for Honors Students in Biology with a faculty mentor (to be identified). Up to nine hours per week (3h/cr) is to be arranged with the faculty mentor. Juniors and Seniors only. May be repeated, but only 6 credits can be applied towards the major in Biology. Requires prior approval of the faculty mentor.

**BIO 497 HONORS THESIS** (1 credit) – The Honors Research Project culminates in a written Honors Thesis to be presented at Scholar’s Day or another appropriate scientific forum. The thesis must be approved by the Honors Coordinator and College Honors Program designee. Students must have obtained an overall GPA and a GPA in the major of \( \geq 3.25 \) in order to register. A minimum grade of B must be obtained to receive Departmental Honors.

REQUIREMENTS

All Honors students must complete all College and Biology major requirements. Depending on when a student joins the Honors program different requirements must be met.
**First Year Students and Sophomores** students (< 24 credits) and sophomore students (< 54 credits) must complete BIO 290 Introduction to Honors Research (2 credits). Student with > 54 credits cannot take BIO 290. All students must complete BIO 490 Honors Research (at least 3 credits) and BIO 497 Honors Thesis (1 credit). Honors Thesis must be submitted and approved by the Honors Coordinator and College Honors Program designee. The thesis research must be presented at Scholar’s Day or an appropriate alternate public forum. Students must maintain a GPA of ≥ 3.25 overall and in all science/math courses in order to earn the Biology Honors Degree.

**First Semester Transfer students** entering Brockport with no more than 65 credits need a GPA of ≥ 3.25 overall and in their science/ math courses to be eligible to apply to the program. **Junior (> 54 credits) and Transfer Students with a semester (12 credits) in residence** require ≥ 3.25 GPA to apply. These students must complete BIO 490 (≥3 credits) and BIO 497 Honors Thesis (1 credit).

**Other Requirements**

Students must maintain a ≥3.25 GPA, and have obtained an overall GPA and a GPA in the major of ≥ 3.25 in order to register for BIO 497 Honors Thesis. As is consistent with the College Honors Program, students will be allowed to drop below 3.25 GPA for no more than one semester. If they have not brought the cumulative GPA back to 3.25 or above at the end of the semester, they will be dropped from the program.

**COLLEGE HONORS PROGRAM**

The College also offers a College Honors Program in which Biology Honors students may participate. In such cases the Biology Honors Thesis serves as the college Thesis requirement. As per Senate Resolution #17 95-96, College Transcripts will reflect all earned Honors designations on the diploma.

**Biology Program Student**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Biology Coursework = 17 credits</th>
<th>Honors in Biology Concentration Student</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 201 General Biology I</td>
<td>BIO 201 General Biology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 202 General Biology II</td>
<td>BIO 202 General Biology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 301 Cell Biology</td>
<td>BIO 290 Intro to Honors Research (2 credits; Frosh/Soph only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 302 Genetics</td>
<td>BIO 301 Cell Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 498 Seminar</td>
<td>BIO 302 Genetics</td>
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<td>BIO 498 Seminar</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Electives must be comprised of up to 20 credits as follows:**

- 300-level electives (up to 8 credits)
- 400 level elective 2 lab req’mnt (6-8 credits)
- Remaining credits at 400-level

**Honors in Biology Concentration Student**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Honors Biology Coursework = 22-26 credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 201 General Biology I</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 497 Honors Thesis (1 credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 490 Honors Research (at least 5 credits, but up to 6 can apply towards the major in Biology – will satisfy lab req’t)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives must be comprised of up to 16 credits as follows:**

- 300-level electives (up to 8 credits)
- Remaining credits at 400-level;

**So Departmental Honors Students will complete 1-3 total extra BIO credits for the Honors designation.**
I approve the attached proposal for an Honors Program in Biology.

Stuart Appelle, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Science and Mathematics
The College at Brockport
State University of New York
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, New York 14420

Good morning,

I found the original proposal for Departmental Honors Programs (Fall 1996 Senate resolution #17) and it does specify that Departments need to send their Honors Requirements to the UGCC on Senate for approval prior to going to the Honors Program - I guess I was misinformed. I'll be taking our Department's Proposal to Senate. I’ve attached the “Senate version” for your approval.

Regards,

Laurie
Dear Laurie,

As Chair of the Dept. of Biology, I support the proposal, Establishing a Departmental Honors Program in Biology. The program is a great opportunity for our better students and our faculty. It will also serve as a recruiting tool for attracting Tier 1 students to Brockport. As part of this program, two new research courses have been created (BIO 290 and BIO 490). The policy for staffing of these courses will be the same as with our present research and independent study courses (BIO 424 and BIO 499), i.e. individual arrangements will be made between faculty mentors and the students. No additional staffing resources will be needed to implement the program.

Sincerely,
Stuart

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Stuart Tsubota
Professor and Chair
Department of Biology
The College at Brockport
stsubota@brockport.edu
585-395-5745