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Minor Change in Early Childhood Education Program - BIO 111 will be acceptable to fulfill the science requirement

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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TO: Dr. Paul Yu, College President
FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: October 29, 2001
RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
   II. Recommendation (Urging the Fitness of)
   III. Other, For your Information (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)
SUBJ: Minor Change in Early Childhood Education Program – BIO 111 will be acceptable to fulfill the science requirement.

Signed: Jennifer Lloyd, Faculty Senate President
Date Sent: 11/12/01

TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. Paul Yu, College President
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle)
   a. Accepted. Effective Date: __/__/__
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on __/__/__
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation
II, III. Response to Recommendation/Other
   a. Received and acknowledged
   b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: Administrative Group

Distribution Date: 11/24/01 Signed: (Dr. Paul Yu, President, SUNY College at Brockport)
To: Dr. Jenny Lloyd, President  
Faculty Senate  

From: Lynae Sakshaug, Chair  
Childhood/Early Childhood Committee

When the Childhood and Early Childhood teacher certification programs were developed under the new SED regulations in 1999, the required cognate courses were matched with general education courses as closely as possible to allow students to meet both requirements at once. Because of the general education requirements and the requirement of an academic major in addition to certification courses, only two science courses were required. The intent was to help teacher candidates complete their programs in a timely fashion. The two required science courses did not include biology. After considerable discussion, we are proposing that both programs be changed to offer either a biology elective or an earth science elective. The department supports this change in both programs. Currently, both programs offer only the earth science elective. The rationale for such a change is that biology is an important component of the curriculum that teachers from preschool through grades 6 teach. Teacher candidates need the opportunity to choose biology as part of their preparation.

Offering biology as an elective will not require more resources. Dr. Larry Kline of the Biology department has affirmed this in his letter supporting the change. Making such a change will just mean that teacher candidates will have more choice and will have the opportunity to take biology, which is important in their preparation to become teachers.
October 10, 2001

TO: Michael Maggiotto, Dean
    School of Letters & Sciences

FR: Joseph R. Mason, Dean
    School of Professions

RE: Support of Cognate

I am writing you to express my support of the recommendation that Field Natural Science be added to the cognates available for students preparing to become Childhood or Early Childhood teachers.

The reasons for this suggested change are well defined in Mo Beers' letter of recommendation.

If you need further justification please call.

slm

cc Morris Beers
    Lynae Sakshaug
September 19, 2001

Dr. Michael Maggiotto, Dean
School of Letters and Sciences
SUNY College at Brockport
Brockport, NY 14420

Dear Dean Maggiotto:

I am writing you in strong support of the recommendation that Field Natural Science be added to the cognates available for students preparing to become Childhood or Early Childhood teachers. When the Faculty/Staff Senate approved the new certification programs, any Biology course in the previous program was replaced by an Earth Science course. This was done in an attempt to reduce the number of courses each student must take to meet the New York State Certification requirements.

We knew at the time that Biology concepts, especially field natural science, were extremely important to teachers in the PreK-6 area. We are now attempting to remedy that weakness by including such a course.

Members of our faculty have been in discussions with the Department of Biology and they are willing to help. I hope to enlist your support as we bring this change in program to the Faculty/Staff Senate.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

Morris I. Beers, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
TO: Dr. Peter Veronesi  
Education and Human Development

FROM: Dr. Larry K. Kline  
Biological Sciences

DATE: September 20, 2001

RE: Suitability of BIO 111 for Childhood Education and Early Childhood Education

This is to confirm our initial conversations regarding the suitability of BIO 111, General Biology for the program of the students noted above. The course would be a sound option for your students to strengthen their backgrounds, particularly in the laboratory science areas.

BIO 111 is a 4 credit laboratory course intended for non-biology majors. The course would certainly provide an excellent introduction to biology for those students intending on teaching at the elementary level. The course surveys all aspects of biology with components of cell biology, ecology, genetics and physiology, among others. Laboratory sessions are intended to focus on the principles of experimental procedures and scientific analysis. If you wish I could easily forward to you copies of the course syllabus as well as a copy of the lab manual.

In summary, we support this change in the Childhood and Early Childhood Education programs. I would also note that these changes would require no additional resources to implement. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

XC: Dr. Robert Rutzen, Interim Chairman  
Biological Sciences

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