

College of Science and Mathematics Senate Meeting

Monday, May 8, 2023

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Zoom info

<https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/96912461817>

Meeting ID: 969 1246 1817

Passcode: CSMSenate

Agenda:

1. Approval of the April 10, 2023, meetings minutes
2. Announcements
3. New business
 - a. ***Motion to approve change of pre/co-requisites for the undergraduate course BIOL - 395 – Biotechnology***

Catalog description: This course is designed to introduce students to methodologies and approaches in the biotechnology industry. The course focuses on the scientific principles and the applications of microbiology, cell biology, immunology, and molecular biology in the medical, pharmaceutical, chemical, and agricultural industries.

Existing prerequisites:

Organic Chemistry I (CHEM 251) and Biochemistry I (BIOCHM 383).

New Prerequisites:

- BIOL 210 or BIOL 212 and
- BIOL 252 or BIOL 254

Originator comments: We are reactivating the course and revising the pre-requisites to bring them into line with other 300-level Biology courses. We are not proposing any other changes.

Specifically, the existing pre-requisites were Organic Chemistry I (CHEM 251) and Biochemistry I (BIOCHM 383). These pre-requisites created a barrier to students enrolling in the class and the content of these classes is not required for a modern Biotechnology course. In addition, most upper-level Biology courses no longer require Organic Chemistry or Biochemistry as pre-requisites.

Biotechnology is a significant part of the Massachusetts economy and UMB graduates often go on to work in this industry. The course was popular in the past and the Biology department would like to offer this course in a more modern version.

Department Undergraduate Program Committee Comment: We looked over the changes to the pre-requisites and they are in line with other upper-level biology courses. The course clearly fills an important need. We do not feel that the changes being made require presenting a syllabus.

Department Chair comments: I have attached a syllabus for the course. We request to re-activate this course and believe it will be an important offering in the curriculum. We request to change the pre-requisites because we believe the new ones are more appropriate and also more consistent with other 300-level courses.

4. Dean's office

5. Other Business

Election of Senate Chair, Associate Chair, and Secretary for the Academic Year 2023-24.

Discussion by Maxim Olchanyi regarding an incident involving one of the physics majors.

6. Adjourn