

December 2, 2019

TO: Karen Carey, Provost
Thomas Thornton, Dean, Arts and Sciences

FROM: Andrzej Piotrowski, Chair, Natural Sciences
Carolyn Bergstrom, Coordinator, Biology Programs

RE: Expedited Program Review: Biology

The faculty of the Biology Program Cluster have responded to the questions asked in the Expedited Program Review.

1. Yes, it is possible to eliminate the pre-majors. The availability of greater General Advising capacity over the last many years has made the presence of these pre-majors obsolete. We can advise Biology and Marine Biology program students efficiently with our current model, where they are with General Advising until they complete their 2nd year, then assigned to a Juneau BIOL faculty for the remainder of their degrees. However, we feel strongly that it is important to maintain our current degree program admission requirements:

BIOL 105 and BIOL 106
MATH 151
WRTG 111
CHEM 103 or 105.

That means that the current 45 Biology Program majors would be counted, but not the 61 pre-majors since they have not completed their admission requirements.

2. The eight faculty (seven tenured/tenure-track, one term) that deliver the full four-year degree programs (BA or BS) Biology and Marine Biology are listed below. These include:

Carolyn Bergstrom	Associate Professor of Marine Biology
Lisa Hoferkamp	Associate Professor of Chemistry
(only joined BIOL program in Fall 2019)	
Susan Kendig	Term Faculty of Biology
Konrad Meister	Assistant Professor of Biochemistry
(starting January 2020)	
Michael Navarro	Assistant Professor of Marine Fisheries
Heidi Pearson	Associate Professor of Marine Biology
(on sabbatical or family leave since Fall 2018)	

David Tallmon	Professor of Biology
Sherry Tamone	Professor of Biology
(retiring May 2020)	

These eight faculty (usually seven given sabbatical/family leave schedules) deliver our programs to the existing 61 pre-majors and 45 majors, for a student:faculty ratio of 13.3 to 1 (15.1 to 1 when one Biology faculty is on sabbatical, which has occurred for each of the last six years). In addition, Lisa Hoferkamp was not included as Biology Program faculty until the current academic year, and won't start advising students until Spring or Fall 2020. Faculty in Sitka and Ketchikan do not contribute in any significant way to the delivery of these four year programs. Chemistry faculty also contribute to the ENVIS Program, and Susan Kendig contributes to the Health Sciences Certificate and degree program, and those students are not included in the above student:faculty ratios. Only tenured or tenure-track faculty advise programmatic students, of which only four are available for the current academic year (Bergstrom, Navarro, Tallmon, and Tamone).