



University Academic Senate (UAS)
Executive Committee of the Senate (ECS)
Felix Ngassa, Chair, 2017-2020
Shawn Bultsma, Vice Chair, 2017-2020

Memorandum

TO: Maria Cimitile, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

FROM: Felix Ngassa, Chair, ECS/UAS

SUBJECT: New Program Prospectus: Bachelor's of Science in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (log# 10826)

DATE: September 24, 2019

CC: Shawn Bultsma, Vice Chair, Executive Committee of the University Academic Senate
Andrea Bostrom, Chair, Graduate Council (GC)
Martin Burg, Chair, University Curriculum Committee (UCC)
Robert Hollister, Chair, Faculty Salary Budget Committee (FSBC)
Ellen Schendel, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
Frederick Antczak, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Joseph Jacquot, Prospectus Author, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
ECS Members

On September 18, 2019, the Council for New Programs and New Academic Units, chaired by Vice Chair, Shawn Bultsma, met at my request to begin the consideration of a prospectus for a new undergraduate major in fisheries and aquatic science. As stated in the prospectus, this major is intended to prepare students interested in careers in this highly-relevant field to the Great Lakes Region. It was noted in the prospectus that if students are interested in fisheries biology, they will be prepared to apply for certification as Associate Fisheries Professional from the American Fisheries Society and will qualify for non-research federal fish biologist positions. The author stated that the proposed major utilizes existing faculty (who have the requisite expertise in the major), coursework, and department resources, requiring no additional resources to support the major beyond a release for program coordination. This degree is expected to serve students already attending GVSU, who are interested in fisheries biology or aquatic sciences by reducing time to graduation through early identification of this pathway compared to students who may not have identified an interest in this specialty until later in their studies. The visibility of the major would make early identification more likely. This major is also expected to make it more likely that future students with interests in fisheries and aquatic sciences will consider GVSU. The authors of the prospectus claimed that the proposed major supports increased opportunities for community engagement and high-impact experiences to best position students for careers in fisheries biology and aquatic sciences. Although it was discussed how this major might provide opportunities for collaboration and synergy with the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI), the prospectus did not provide any details about its anticipated relationship with AWRI. If support for this major is given at the next level, the authors are strongly encouraged to be explicit about how the AWRI might be leveraged to support students within the major. Authors are also advised to indicate that the proposed release for program coordinator should come from the significant area of focus rather than a release from teaching.

The Council voted to recommend support for the prospectus (4-yay; 0-nay; 0-abstain).