

28 October 2015

Dear Faculty Senate Colleagues,

I want to offer my strong support for the extension of the B.S. in Biology to the Tri-Cities campus. Our office has worked closely with the Director of the School of Biological Sciences on course development, curriculum implementation, and staffing needs in order to offer the Biology degree on this campus. The WSU Tri-Cities administration is fully supportive of this proposal as it aligns with our mission to expand STEM degree offerings on our campus

There is considerable interest among students on the campus and in the region in biology and in health careers. With one tenure-track, two clinical track, two affiliate, and several adjunct faculty, we currently teach all courses required for the degree face-to-face in our general biological sciences degree program. Current faculty resources are sufficient to handle projected growth in the program through the third year. We are currently searching for an open rank biology professor to fill a vacant line on the campus and these costs have been accounted for. The campus master plan calls for the addition of a third clinical track faculty as enrollment grows.

Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Michele Acker-Hocevar, Ph.D.  
Interim Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs