

Request for Calendar Change Form

Tracking No:
(Senate Secretary's Office
use only)
Date:

To Secretary of Senate
From Name(Dean):
Andrew Dean
Department the change relates to
Biology
Contact Person
Lada Malek

Faculty
Science and Environmental Science

*Dept - Biology - Grad Seminars +
Req'd half courses*

Is the proposed calendar change Graduate

Instructions:

1. In all cases please complete and attach section 1 and 2
2. If the calendar change affect other departments/schools/faculties complete and attach section 3
3. If the answer to any of the questions below is yes, explain. Attach separate sheets with reference to the question

1. Do the proposed changes affect other departments/ schools/faculties in terms of their calendar change? Yes No

2. Is a transition plan needed for student in progress? Yes No

3. Are the proposed changes likely to affect student enrollment in your department/school/faculty? Yes No

4. Are the proposed changes likely to affect student enrollment in other departments/schools/faculties at Lakehead University? Yes No

5. Will the proposed changes require additional teaching space and/or teaching staff and/or equipment and/or other resources? Yes No

6 Will the proposed changes affect existing teaching loads within your department/school/faculty? Yes No

7. Will the proposed changes increase demand for teaching support services such as the library, computing services and technical staff ? Yes No

8. Will the proposed change require direct or in-kind support from outside the academic unit? Yes No

9. Do the proposed changes include change in course(s) which is/are required core course(s) for a major? Yes No

10. Do the proposed changes include a change in course which is Yes No

service/required course(s) in another program?

11. Do the proposed changes include change in course(s) which is/are open elective available to any student in any program?

Yes

No

12. Do the proposed changes include change in course(s) which is/are elective in a major i.e. restricted to students in a major?

Yes

No

Signatures:

Date approved by faculty council

Section 1

Description of the Proposed Calendar Change:

(1) The Department of Biology has long debated how to ensure graduate student attendance at departmental seminars. The recently completed OCGS external review also recommended further development of research culture through a vigorous seminar program. Program requirement described below, rather than a specific course, appears to be optimal route to take.

(2) Second major recommendation of the OCGS panel was to decrease the number of required half courses from four to three.

Rationale of the Proposed Calendar Change(s):

(Corresponding to Section 2 where required)

(1) Graduate students, as part of their professional development, must develop a habit of continuing their learning through attendance of professional seminars. Voluntary approach did not work effectively in the past, especially for students in the second year of study. This prompted us to include this new program requirement. Attendance will be taken by the graduate coordinator or designated alternate, but no formal mechanism will exist for stringently enforcing this program requirement.

(2) According to OCGS reviewers, decreasing the course requirement from 4 to 3 half courses will bring the Biology MSc program in line with other Biology thesis programs in Canada. The decrease in required courses will also increase the time dedicated to experimental or field work, and is hoped to result in increased publication output of the MSc candidates.

Section 2

Existing Calendar Entries:
(Page reference based on hard copy or URL based on electronic version of calendar)

Proposed Calendar Entries/Addition/ Deletion
-If only addition, specify page number and placement in university calendar
-If only deletion, write Deleted

PROGRAM

The program consists of five full course equivalents composed of a graduate thesis (equivalent to three full courses), a graduate seminar (equivalent to a half-course) taken in the first year of the program, and one and one-half elective courses. The student will take at least one full course at the fifth year level and, with permission of the Department and the Graduate Studies Committee, may be permitted to take one additional course selected from senior level courses not previously taken in the Department of Biology or from senior level courses in a cognate department.

All candidates must satisfy the Department of Biology as to any required make-up undergraduate course work before being allowed to complete the Master's program. Candidates will be required to present at a special departmental seminar an outline and, if possible, the title of the proposed research thesis. An oral examination on the thesis will be required prior to final approval.

PROGRAM

The program consists of five full course equivalents composed of a graduate thesis (equivalent to three and a half full courses), a graduate seminar (equivalent to a half-course) taken in the first year of the program, and one full year equivalent elective course. The student will take at least one full course at the fifth year level and, with permission of the Department and the Graduate Studies Committee, may be permitted to take one additional course selected from senior level courses not previously taken in the Department of Biology or from senior level courses in a cognate department.

All candidates must satisfy the Department of Biology as to any required make-up undergraduate course work before being allowed to complete the Master's program. Candidates will be required to present at a special departmental seminar an outline and, if possible, the title of the proposed research thesis. Participation in departmental seminars during the 6 semesters of study is expected for graduation from the program. An oral examination on the thesis will be required prior to final approval.

Section 3

The Faculty(ies) affected by the proposed calendar change

I have been consulted regarding the attached calendar change and understand the academic and budgetary implication on my Dept./School/Faculty.

I agree to this calendar change proposal

Yes

No

Name: Andrew Dean

Faculty: SES

Date: Nov 16, 2010

Signature of Dean

