

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REQUEST  
FOR DECISION**

---

**PRESENTED BY:** Roy Dobson, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 17, 2014

**SUBJECT:** **Four-Year and Honours Degree, Biomolecular Structure  
Studies – program termination**

**DECISION REQUESTED:**

*It is recommended:*

That Council approve the termination of the honours and four-year degree in Biomolecular Structure Studies, effective September 2014.

**PURPOSE:**

University Council approves termination of academic programs.

**SUMMARY:**

The Biomolecular Structure Studies program has no enrollment, no student interest, no faculty support, and no funding.

**REVIEW:**

The Academic Programs Committee discussed this proposal with David Palmer, Head, Department of Chemistry and Alexis Dahl, Director of Programs, Arts and Science. It was noted that the program was designed by nature to be small and to focus on preparation for graduate studies. The original funding for the program came from the Provost's office as part of the Priority Determination process in 1999, but that funding is no longer available. The faculty who originally championed the program are no longer involved with it. In the estimation of the departments, generalist degrees provide equivalent preparation for graduate studies while providing more employment opportunities.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Proposal documents; Letter of support.



**Program(s) to be deleted: Biomolecular Structure Studies**

**Effective date of termination: September 2014**

**1. List reasons for termination and describe the background leading to this decision.**

Start-up funding for this program has expired, and the program failed to attract sufficient students to have base-budget funds devoted to it. No students have currently declared this major.

All remaining BMST courses will be deleted, and this subject code will no longer be used. (BMST 305 has already been relabelled to BIOC 405.)

Students currently in this program will be allowed to complete the requirements and convocate with this major, within a reasonable period of time.

**2. Technical information.**

2.1 Courses offered in the program and faculty resources required for these courses.

BMST 305.3 Structure and Function of Biomolecules (revised to BIOC 405) (required course for 4-year and Honours)

BMST 406.3 Advanced Biomolecular Techniques (required course for 4-year and Honours)

BMST 408.3 Macromolecular Structure Determination (required course for 4-year)

BMST 485.6 Research in Biomolecular Structure Studies (required course for Honours)

Up to 15 credit units of teaching assignments

2.2 Other resources (staff, technology, physical resources, etc) used for this program.

BMST 406 is a lab course that requires access to specialized equipment for studying biological macromolecules.

2.3 Courses to be deleted, if any.

BMST 406

BMST 408

BMST 485

The BMST subject code will no longer be used, so no special topics courses will be available under this label.

2.4 Number of students presently enrolled.

No students have currently declared this major.

2.5 Number of students enrolled and graduated over the last five years.

Enrolled:

2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
4	3	1	0	0

Graduated

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 (spring only)
1	1	1	1	0

*Data from U of S Information Strategy and Analytics*

### 3. Impact of the termination.

#### Internal

3.1 What if any impact will this termination have on undergraduate and graduate students? How will they be advised to complete their programs?

Students currently in the program will be allowed to complete the program requirements within a reasonable period of time.

3.2 What impact will this termination have on faculty and teaching assignments?

BMST 305 has been revised as a BIOC course, and will be taught by faculty in that Department.

Faculty who may have taught other BMST will return to teaching within their specific discipline (BIOC or CHEM), instead of the Sessional Lecturers who were hired with the start-up funding.

3.3 Will this termination affect other programs, departments or colleges?

Termination of the program affects the Departments of Biochemistry and Chemistry, each of which has approved the deletion.

3.4 If courses are also to be deleted, will these deletions affect any other programs?

BMST courses are not required in any other programs. Some of the BMST courses are listed as restricted electives in Bioinformatics; Biochemistry; Biotechnology, Microbiology & Immunology; Biochemistry & Biotechnology; Chemistry; and Microbiology & Immunology. Each of these programs has sufficient other courses in these lists that deletion of the BMST courses will not

cause students to have problems in completing their degree nor in having adequate choice of courses.

3.5 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop a program to replace this one?

It is not likely.

3.6 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop courses to replace the ones deleted?

BMST 305 has been revised to BIOC 405.

Content from the other BMST courses may be included in other Science courses, especially in BIOC or CHEM, but it is not likely that full courses will be developed to replace the ones being deleted.

3.7 Describe any impact on research projects.

No impact on faculty research

3.8 Will this deletion affect resource areas such as library resources, physical facilities, and information technology?

No impact. All resources are also used for Biochemistry and Chemistry.

3.9 Describe the budgetary implications of this deletion.

Start-up funding has expired. No base budget funding was committed, so there are no further budgetary implications.

### External

3.10 Describe any external impact (e.g. university reputation, accreditation, other institutions, high schools, community organizations, professional bodies).

This is a very small program, first appearing in the *Calendar* (now Program Catalogue) in 2005-6. It is unlikely that the deletion of this program will have any external impact.

3.11 Is it likely or appropriate that another educational institution will offer this program if it is deleted at the University of Saskatchewan?

No.

### Other

3.12 Are there any other relevant impacts or considerations?

Though the decision to delete this program pre-dates the Transform Us recommendations, it is relevant to note that this program was placed in Quintile 5.

3.13 Please provide any statements or opinions received about this termination.

Please see College Statement.



**MEMORANDUM**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

**DIVISION OF SCIENCE**

TO: Roy Dobson, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

FROM: Peta Bonham-Smith, Vice-Dean (Science)

DATE: February 19, 2014

RE: Deletion of the B.A. 4-year and Honours programs in Biomolecular Structure Studies

---

This memo confirms that the College of Arts & Sciences supports the deletion of the B.Sc. programs in Biomolecular Structure Studies, as set out in the Program Termination form. The start-up funding for this program has expired, and the program did not attract the necessary level of student enrolment to warrant base-budget funding.

Students who have begun work on these programs prior to May 2013 will be allowed to complete, per College of Arts and Science regulations. These students will be advised on a case-by-case basis. (Intake of students into this program was suspended in 2013-14. A note indicating this suspension was included in the 2013-14 Course and Program Catalogue.)

The proposal to terminate the program was submitted to the College Course Challenge in November 2013, and was approved by the Academic Programs Committee (Science) on December 3, 2013. The proposal was approved by the Divisional Faculty Council (Science) on January 28, 2014.

---

Peta Bonham-Smith