

Status: PENDING

PROGRAM REQUEST
Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology

Last Updated: Myers,Dena Elizabeth
06/06/2011

Fiscal Unit/Academic Org	Plant Cell & Molec Biology - D0380
Administering College/Academic Group	Arts And Sciences
Co-administering College/Academic Group	
Semester Conversion Designation	Deactivated (i.e., program to be held in abeyance for possible future use, but not to be converted at present time, no new admissions shall be possible until reactivated, include effective date of deactivation)
Rationale	The historically small number of students in PCMB-PhD, and a new developed plant track in the MolGen-PhD program, are the driving force behind the deactivation of the PCMB-PhD program.
Current Program/Plan Name	Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology
Program/Plan Code Abbreviation	PCMB-PH
Current Degree Title	Doctor of Philosophy

Attachments

- PCMB-PhD-deactivation.pdf: deactivation proposal
(Letter from Program-offering Unit. Owner: Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich)
- PCMB MS and PhD deactivation cover letter.doc: NMS Division of Arts and Sciences cover letter
(Letter from the College to OAA. Owner: Andereck,Claude David)

Comments

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich	05/18/2011 02:59 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich	05/18/2011 02:59 PM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Andereck,Claude David	05/20/2011 11:11 AM	College Approval
Submitted	Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich	05/26/2011 12:23 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Vaessin,Harald Emil Friedrich	05/26/2011 12:27 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Andereck,Claude David	06/03/2011 04:09 PM	College Approval
Approved	Myers,Dena Elizabeth	06/06/2011 08:58 AM	GradSchool Approval
Pending Approval	Cameron,Erin Marie Soave,Melissa A	06/06/2011 08:58 AM	CAA Approval



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June 3, 2011

Dena Myers
Graduate School
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Dear Dena:

It is a pleasure to forward to you for your consideration proposals for the deactivation of the Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology (PCMB) MS and PhD programs. The Departments of Molecular Genetics and PCMB have recently merged into a unified Molecular Genetics Department. The Department has decided on a unified graduate program that incorporates a that the existing PCMB programs would be available as a track within the semester version of the Molecular Genetics programs. At the present time there are twenty students in the PCMB PhD. It is anticipated that these students will complete their course requirements and move to the candidacy examination prior to the start of semesters, thus mitigating the need for an extensive transition plan. Deactivation is requested for 2018 to allow sufficient time for students now in the program to complete all requirements for the degree. Similar considerations apply to the MS degree program, to which no students are directly admitted; the twenty students in the doctoral program at present constitute the pool from which MS recipients would come, and they will have completed all course requirements for the MS by the time semester conversion occurs.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to address them.

Sincerely,

David Andereck
Professor of Physics
Associate Dean of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences

**Department of Molecular Genetics**

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To: Office of Academic Affairs

From: Anita Hopper, Chair, Department of Molecular Genetics

Handwritten signature of Anita K. Hopper in blue ink.

Mark Seeger, Associate Chair, Department of Molecular Genetics

Handwritten signature of Mark A. Seeger in black ink.

Date: May 24, 2011

Re: Deactivation of the PCMB PhD

The Department of Plant Cell and Molecular Biology (PCMB) recently merged with the Department of Molecular Genetics (approved by the Board of Trustees, February 2011). A driving force behind this merger was the declining number of faculty within PCMB and the limited number (approximately twenty) of PCMB undergraduate majors. As part of the program and curriculum review for the quarter to semester conversion process the PCMB and Molecular Genetics faculties discussed the future of the PCMB Graduate Program (MS and PhD). These discussions took place within our curriculum committees and combined faculty meetings starting in the 2009/2010 academic year and continuing through Winter Quarter 2011. The consensus that emerged from these discussions was that the unified departments support a single graduate program. This graduate program was modified to incorporate tracks that will guide PhD students in coursework selection reflecting their specific research interests. One of these tracks is focused on plant cellular and molecular biology. Many of the courses utilized by the previous PCMB PhD program now serve as electives within the PCMB track of the new Molecular Genetics PhD program. These modifications to the Molecular Genetics PhD program, including deactivation of the PCMB PhD, were approved by a unanimous vote of the faculty (20-0) at our January 2011 joint faculty meeting. The quarter to semester conversion proposal for the re-envisioned Molecular Genetics PhD program is currently under university review.

Currently there are twenty PhD students within the PCMB graduate program. Two of these students started in the program in Autumn 2010 and three students started in Autumn 2009; no new students will be admitted for the 2011/2012 academic year. All current students will have the opportunity to complete their PCMB PhD or MS degree. Appropriate courses continue to be offered to meet PCMB program requirements. In cases where a course is no longer offered, students are individually advised as to an appropriate substitute by their PhD mentor and advisory committee. Since our PhD students generally complete core curriculum requirements

and their candidacy exam by the end of the second year, we anticipate that all PCMB graduate students will have achieved post-candidacy status at the time of semester conversion. The individualized nature of graduate student advising and the relatively small number of students involved ensures that the advising of these PCMB graduate students should proceed smoothly. No students will be negatively impacted nor their progress to degree completion impeded by the proposed deactivation of the PCMB graduate program or the quarter to semester conversion.

We request that the PCMB PhD Program be officially deactivated at the conclusion of Summer Semester 2018. This will provide seven years for the current group of graduate students to complete their PhD degrees. The 2018 date would allow the current first year PCMB PhD students a total of eight years to complete their degree requirements, a period of time that should be adequate based on the typical time to degree for the PCMB PhD program.