**Executive Summary of Program Assessment**

**Campus:** MU

**College/School:** College of Arts and Science

**Academic Unit:** Biological Sciences

**Date Submitted:** 12/06/12

**Person Responsible for Success of Program:** John C. Walker, Professor and Director of Biological Sciences

**Person Submitted Executive Summary:**

Patricia Okker, Faculty Fellow for Program Assessment and Accreditation, Office of the Provost

**Degree Programs**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Degree (e.g., BS, MA, PhD)** | **Degree Program** | **Enrollment** | **Number of Degrees Awarded** |
| **Most Recent Fall Semester****(Fall 2011)** | **5-Year Fall Semester Average** | **Most Recent Academic Year****(Fall 2011)** | **5-Year Average** |
| BA/BS | Biological Sciences | 1481 | 1307 | 231 | 229 |
| MA | Biological Sciences | 10 | 8.6 | 1 | 3.6 |
| PhD | Biological Sciences | 80 | 78 | 9 | 9.6 |

**Changes Since Last Review (2007)**

* 29% increase in enrollment of undergraduate majors
* 20% increase in undergraduate student credit hours taught
* 9% decrease in total expenditures (salary, benefits, equipment, etc.)
* 18% decrease in number of staff
* Changes in faculty: loss of 7 faculty (resignation, retirement, death) and addition of 6 faculty; tenure and promotion to associate professor of 9 faculty and promotion to full professor of 2 faculty.
* Appointment of Dr. John C. Walker as Director, following a national search.
* Identification of the Division’s ten “research strengths”: behavior, cell biology, development, ecology, evolution, genetics and genomics, molecular biology, neurobiology, plant biology, and quantitative and computational biology.

**Strategies or Plans for Improving Program**

* As part of the ongoing National Center for Academic Transformation, the Division will redesign Biological Sciences 1010 to improve learning outcomes in two areas, the nature and process of science and science and society. The redesign also will aim to increase student engagement, teach students to take responsibility for their own learning, develop skills as lifelong learners, and increase interaction between instructors, between students, and between students and instructors.
* Improve cyber-infrastructure and informatics.
* Promote professional development of the staff and implement an electronic document management, document imaging, and workflow system.
* Improve alumni relations and development (through redesign of website, social networks, alumni relations committee, divisional newsletter, and leadership board).
* Increase financial support of graduate students.

**Other Comments**

* Election of Dr. James Birchler, Curators’ Professor of Biological Sciences, to National Academies of Science (2011)
* Receipt of William T. Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching to Professors Bethany Stone (2011) and Anand Chandrasekhar (2008)
* In 2011, 43 of the 118 undergraduates initiated into Phi Beta Kappa were from the Division of Biological Sciences.
* The graduate rate for Ph.D. students in the Division of Biological Sciences is 85%, well above the 62.9% for other comparable schools in the life sciences.
* Median years required to complete a doctorate in the Division of Biological Sciences is 5.4 years, well below the national average of 6.9 years in the life sciences.