



Office of the Provost and  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Phone: (906) 487-2440  
Fax: (906) 487-2935

**TO:** Richard Koubek, President

**FROM:** Jacqueline E. Huntoon, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

*Jacqueline E. Huntoon*

**DATE:** March 26, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Senate Proposal 49-21

Attached is Senate proposal 49-21, "Proposal to Shelve Degree Program: General Biology Concentration (SBL1)," and a memo stating the Senate passed this proposal at their March 24, 2021 meeting. I have reviewed this memo and recommend approving the proposal.

I concur   X   do not concur        with this recommendation.

Richard Koubek, President

3/29/2021

Date



**Michigan Tech**

*University Senate*

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**DATE:** March 25, 2021  
**TO:** Richard Koubek, President  
**FROM:** Samuel Sweitz  
University Senate President  
**SUBJECT:** Proposal 49-21  
**COPIES:** Jacqueline E. Huntoon, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

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At its meeting on March 24, 2021, the University Senate approved Proposal 49-21, "Proposal to Shelve Degree Program: General Biology Concentration (SBL1)". Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

**The University Senate of Michigan Technological University**

**Proposal 49-21**

(Voting Units: Academic)

**“Proposal to Shelve Degree Program: General Biology Concentration (SBL1)”**

Submitted by  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Contact: Chandrashekhar Joshi, Professor and Chair

**1. Full name of program to be shelved**

B.S. in Biology – General Biology (SBL1)

**2. Final term program will be open for new admits**

Summer 2021

**3. Plan to complete all enrolled and returning students**

All required Biological Sciences courses will remain available. Therefore, enrolled and returning students will finish the degree as defined in the degree audit for their enrollment year.

**4. Reason for shelving**

In Fall 2020 the Department of Biological Sciences launched two new majors in Human Biology (SHB) and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (SEEB). These two degrees were designed to offer increased course options and flexibility within the degree to improve retention, time to graduation, transferability for incoming students, and student satisfaction relative to the existing concentrations within the Biology major. Because of introducing these two new degrees, we have proposed to shelve the Biology concentrations in Ecology (SBL3), and Pre-Professional (SBL5), leaving behind only one concentration in General Biology (SBL1). It doesn't make sense to retain this single concentration in the Biology major, and therefore, we propose now to shelve the SBL1 concentration, leaving a Biology major with no required concentration (SBL).

**5. Financial impact (if any) to the department and university**

We anticipate minimal financial impact of this change to the department and university. Students who are currently seeking the SBL1 concentration will be able to complete their major in SBL. The current SBL1 degree audit will become the audit for an SBL degree with no concentration, so we anticipate no change in enrollment or disruption to students interested in a general Biology degree. All existing courses will continue to be taught and departmental recruiting and advancement materials are already being revised to promote the new SHB, SEEB and SBL degrees rather than the concentrations.