

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 5716S
Date of Senate Approval 2/11/16

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 47: **Delete BIOL 115, replacing with BIOL 135;
Change BIOL 116 to BIOL 136, revising description**

Effective Date: Fall 2016

1. Delete: On page 93, the entry for **BIOL 115:**

115 Concepts in Ecology and Evolution (4)

Introduction to basic concepts in evolutionary biology and ecology. The laboratory emphasizes data analysis and scientific writing. Pre- or corequisite: CHEM 132. Fall.

Add: On page 93, new course, **BIOL 135:**

135 Concepts in Ecology and Evolution (3)

Introduction to fundamental concepts in evolutionary biology and ecology and connects these sciences to issues of global importance. This class is geared towards Biology majors and students of the Natural Sciences who plan on taking upper-level coursework in Biology. Students may not receive credit for this course and for BIOL 115. Pre- or corequisite: CHEM 132. Fall.

Impact Statement: We anticipate the impact from this course to be positive. The lecture and lab components of BIOL 115 were not tightly linked, so there will be minimal change in the content, focus, and rigor of the lecture component. The class will still be counted for all courses in which it was a prerequisite. Biology students will be required to take an additional course (BIOL 134) to attain the skills that were taught in the lab, which will teach these and additional concepts and skills with better depth, clarity, and pacing.

This change will slightly reduce credit hours for students outside the major who take BIOL 135. Removing the lab will make it easier for students to schedule this class without conflicting with other courses. Interest and enrollment from students wishing to explore this area may increase somewhat, and it will be easier to accommodate students without the scheduling and logistical difficulties of offering additional lab sections.

Rationale: The content and rigor of this class will not be reduced. When coupled with the new BIOL 134, students will be better prepared for success in further coursework in Biology. This semester, 6 lab sections of BIOL 115 are being taught. Eliminating the lab section will free these faculty members to teach in other courses in the department, and will make offering BIOL 134 feasible. As it was formerly conducted, the nature of the lab component of the class dictated that it could only be offered in the Fall semester. Removing the lab component will make it far easier to offer summer or trailing sections of the class to meet student demand, if the need or interest arises. Course description will also allow this course to potentially serve as an LAC Scientific Perspectives course for majors. Costs of teaching large numbers of introductory students will be reduced, allowing for redirection of resources for improving the experience in BIOL 134 and other classes in the biology department.

2. Delete: On page 93, the entry for **BIOL 116:**

116 Principles of Cellular and Molecular Biology (4)

Class and laboratory provide an introduction to cell structure and function, and to basic concepts of genetics and molecular biology. Prerequisites: CHEM 111 and 132. Spring.

Add: On page 93, in place of deleted entry, renumbered course, **BIOL 136:**

136 Principles of Cellular and Molecular Biology (4)

Class and laboratory provide an introduction to cell structure and function, and to basic concepts of genetics and molecular biology as they relate to global issues of societal importance. Students may not receive credit for this course and for BIOL 116. Pre- or corequisite: CHEM 111; Prerequisites: CHEM 132. Spring.

Impact Statement: None anticipated.

Rationale: The number for BIOL 116 is being changed to maintain the course sequencing within the major, which will make it easier for academic advisors from other disciplines to determine the appropriate sequence. The slight change in description is necessary so this course will potentially fulfill requirements as a LAC Science Perspectives course.