

Developing a State of Minds

Connecticut State University System

BR#02-33



RESOLUTION  
concerning a  
MODIFICATION

for a

SPECIALIZATION IN CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND A  
SPECIALIZATION IN ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE IN THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM IN  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

at

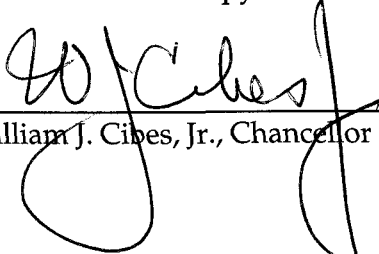
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

June 14, 2002

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System approves Central Connecticut State University's proposal to offer a specialization in Cell and Molecular Biology and a specialization in Ecology and Environmental Science in the Master of Arts degree program in Biological Sciences, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the president of Central Connecticut State University provide appropriate documentation to the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

A Certified True Copy:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William J. Cipes, Jr., Chancellor

**ITEM**

Modification of the Master of Arts degree program in Biological Sciences at Central Connecticut State University

**BACKGROUND**

This program is being modified to provide in depth knowledge in these two emerging specializations to address the needs of the biotechnology industry and environment-related employment in the state and to provide strong foundations for continued graduate study and research at the doctoral level. Both program modifications passed the CCSU Faculty Senate in November 2001.

**ANALYSIS**

This program creates two specializations in the current MA curriculum: the cell and molecular biology track adds one required course and one elective course; the ecology and environmental sciences specialization adds one required course and three elective courses. Justification for the specializations is supported by employment opportunities and the competitive nature of advanced graduate study. Faculty, library and laboratory resources are sufficient to support current enrollment. Some additional laboratory equipment for specialized research has already been purchased; faculty will seek grants to acquire additional equipment as needed. Operational funding appears sufficient to cover new student enrollment and current university support will sustain the specializations.

While there is no external professional accreditation for these programs, assessment and evaluation of student outcomes will be embedded in coursework, as well as capstone requirements of a research project, with oral and written presentations of results, and a thesis or comprehensive examination. The proposal presents a favorable description of employment possibilities as well as preparation for advanced graduate study.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the proposal from Central Connecticut State University to modify the Master of Arts degree program in Biological Sciences to include specializations in Cell and Molecular Biology and Ecology and Environmental Sciences.