The members of College Curriculum Committee:

In developing our proposal for a biological science major, we evaluated all three-specialization areas.  There are strengths inherent in each of the areas, including, as has been noted, the breadth of applicable coursework that could contribute to a Life Sciences Education specialization. Information from our Academic and Career Service offices indicates greatest student interest in the health sciences. While we acknowledge that comparatively few students can be expected to enter the health professions as medical, dental or veterinary physicians *per se*, we believe that the health professions are growing, and also are broad enough, to justify investment in this educational sector. Moreover, many students fresh out of high school who are initially drawn to the study of biology because of perceived job opportunities in the health sciences field may be simply, as yet, unaware of the myriad other ways to pursue a career in the life sciences. The Pre-Health Professions seem to be a very good pick for the Marion Campus because they would appeal to students with an interest in medicine, while also providing a solid grounding in biological principles and practices that could be put to use in life sciences generally.

Having Biology major on campus would provide students with opportunities to diversify their experience in other areas as well, such as anthropology, environmental science, astronomy, and other science-related disciplines. A specialization in Life Sciences Education, while it may not be favored now, may be adopted as an additional option in the future. We currently offer an early and middle school Licensure degree program in education that attracts a significant number of students. Few of them, however, are science or math specialists. Careful monitoring of the subject interests of future educators will be undertaken, and, should a substantial number of them indicate an interest in biology, we would endeavor to add a Life Sciences Education specialization.  Presently the Pre-Health Professions specialization has both the greatest appeal and the broadest utility, and is the one we’d like to initially adopt for our campus.

Bob Klips, Associate Professor, EEOB

Susan Gershman, Assistant Professor, EEOB