



May 29, 2014

Associate Dean Christopher Hadad  
Natural and Mathematical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences  
Ohio State University  
114E University Hall  
230 North Oval Mall

Dear Christopher,

I am pleased to provide my strong support for the proposal to offer a major in biology on the Marion campus of The Ohio State University (B.S. and B.A.). I think the addition of this major to the Marion campus offerings will provide an additional and welcome avenue for Marion students who are interested in the life sciences to complete their undergraduate degree without having to change campuses. In addition, the availability of additional upper division courses in the life sciences at Marion has the potential to encourage and support student interest in many of the sciences, and in the long run, may lead students to transition to the Columbus campus to pursue other STEM majors as well.

We currently have a good working relationship with colleagues at the Lima campus of Ohio State, where the biology major is also offered. Our experience in working with faculty and advisors at Lima will be invaluable as we work with Marion campus faculty and advisors to support students pursuing the biology major. Our Columbus campus advisors already travel to the regional campuses to visit their science advisors and prospective biology majors once every year or so, and we plan to hold annual or more frequent advising workshops to coordinate biology major advising across all three campuses. In addition, Columbus campus CLSE advisors will continue to certify all biology majors for graduation, including the Lima and Marion campuses, thus ensuring that the standards for the Ohio State biology major are consistent across campuses.

We have worked with our Marion colleagues on the sample 4-year plans for the BS and BA in biology to make sure that they align with the biology major requirements and are a good fit with Marion campus faculty expertise. Obviously, there won't be the same breadth of course selections on the Marion campus compared with the Columbus campus, however, I believe that most of the issues that might come up with respect to course availability and student interests can be worked out with course substitutions, or in some cases, students may spend a semester on the Columbus campus to fill out their major with more specialized course work. In the long run, as new faculty and course offerings come into play, I am confident that students will have a strong biology program to follow on the Marion campus.

Regards,

Director, Center for Life Sciences Education  
Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Cc: Bishun Pandey