Program Change Request

New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 06/15/16 11:44 am

Viewing: -ND,ND : Center for Wildlife Health and Disease

Last edit: 08/25/16 2:38 pm
Submitted to workflow by: Quinn, Mark (785g929)

Overview

Department: Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Disease (MBlI)
College: College of Agriculture
Academic Level: Graduate
Program Type: Other

Other Type of Program:
Center

Please review this program for financial aid eligibility.
No

Suggested Program Code:
Degree Code: Non Degree (ND) Non Degree Graduate (ND)

Program Title:
Center for Wildlife Health and Disease Ecology

Abbreviated Program Title:
Center for Wildlife Health

Effective catalog when new program will be available to students:
2016-2017

https://nextcatalog.montana.edu/courseleaf/approve?role=Faculty%20Senate%20Chair
We are requesting a change in the name of an existing Center to meet current needs and to make it relevant to the current scope of the center. The current name is Center for Bison and Wildlife Health. The new name will be Center for Wildlife Health and Disease Ecology. The original center was initiated by faculty who worked only on bison, and hence their focus was on bison health. Our focus is broader because of the broader faculty interests, covering wildlife diseases at local, national and international scales. Even on the local scale, we aim to work on a variety of species, including bighorn sheep, wolves, elk, moose, bats, and prairie dogs. Although we hope to include research on bison health within the center, singling out a specific species may give the incorrect impression that our focus is too narrow.

**Need**

To what specific need is the institution responding in developing the proposed program?

Three quarters of new emerging infectious diseases come from animals, and the majority of these are from wildlife. The field of infectious disease ecology provides the interdisciplinary theories and frameworks needed to address these global issues. The restructured Center for Wildlife Health and Disease Ecology would position itself to be a leader in this research space by developing this rapidly growing field. The addition of infectious disease ecology, incorporating epidemiology and disease dynamics, to the course repertoire will provide a powerful expansion of training at MSU.

How will students and any other affected constituencies be served by the proposed program?

The following updated goals and activities of the Center will help students and faculty:

1. The Center will attract international science leaders to Montana for think tanks and seminars and these interactions will be beneficial for students and faculty.
2. The Center’s efforts to prototype and refine interdisciplinary approaches to research will benefit faculty and students.
3. The Center will serve as a hub for researchers interested in wildlife health locally, nationally and internationally, creating a science community for students and faculty.
4. The Center will help link faculty and students across institutions (e.g., MSU, NIH Rocky Mountain Labs, Wildlife Agencies, Wildlife NGOs), creating opportunities for collaboration and learning.
5. The Center will convene workshops, speaker series and training courses that will benefit faculty and students.

What is the anticipated demand for the program? How was this determined?

This is a proposed name change for a Center. Many students have expressed interest in disease ecology. The Center will continue to provide structure for students and faculty to meet and discuss wildlife health and disease ecology issues.

**Institutional and System Fit**

What is the connection between the proposed program and existing programs at the institution?

This program already exists. We are requesting a name change to match the current scope of the Center and update the name.

Will approval of the proposed program require changes to any existing programs at the institution?

No

Describe what differentiates this program from other, closely related programs at the institution (if appropriate)

This is an existing Center. There are no other closely related programs or Centers.

How does the proposed program serve to advance the strategic goals of the institution?

This Center will continue to bring recognition to MSU as an internationally recognized Center of excellence for interdisciplinary research on wildlife health and disease. The Center will also help procure research.
funding for wildlife health research initiatives. Changing the name to become more relevant to current issues in the field will help to accomplish these goals.

Describe the relationship between the proposed program and any similar programs within the Montana University System. In cases of substantial duplication, explain the need for the proposed program at an additional institution. Describe any efforts that were made to collaborate with these similar programs; and if no efforts were made, explain why. If articulation or transfer agreements have been developed for the substantially duplicated programs, please include the agreement(s) as part of the documentation.

This is an existing Center. There are no similar Centers within the Montana University System. However, there are faculty interested in Disease Ecology and wildlife health scattered across institutions including at MSU, University of Montana (one faculty member), MT Fish Wildlife and Parks (at least three employees), Wildlife Conservation Society (one employee), USGS (at least three employees), NIH Rocky Mountain Labs (at least two employees) and other institutions. One of the longer term goals of our Center is to facilitate interaction of these people.

### Program Details

With this name change, we propose to repackage, reinvigorate and modernize the existing "Center for Bison and Wildlife Health" within the Department of Microbiology and Immunology (MBI) at MSU. We propose to rename the Center to "Center for Wildlife Health and Disease Ecology" to broaden the focus of the center and catalyze interest in the growing field of Disease Ecology. The original center was initiated by faculty who worked only on bison, and hence their focus was on bison health. Our focus is broader because of the broader faculty interests, covering wildlife diseases at local, national and international scales. Even on the local scale, we aim to work on a variety of species, including bighorn sheep, wolves, elk, moose, bats, and prairie dogs. Although we hope to include research on bison health within the center, singling out a specific species may give the incorrect impression that our focus is too narrow.

The Center, which will have an expanded focus on wildlife health and infectious disease ecology, will have the following updated goals and activities:

- Become an internationally recognized center of excellence for interdisciplinary research on wildlife health and disease.
- Prototype and refine interdisciplinary approaches to research.
- Attract international science leaders to Montana to think about wildlife disease issues.
- Serve as a hub for researchers interested in wildlife health locally, nationally and internationally.
- Create a regional community for scientists with similar interests, including scientists from MSU, UM, NIH Rocky Mountain Labs, Wildlife Agencies, Wildlife NGOs, etc.
- Convene workshops, speaker series and training courses.

Describe the planned implementation of the proposed program, including estimates of numbers of students at each stage.

<p>N/A</p>

### Resources

Will additional faculty resources be required to implement this program?  
No

Please Explain:

Are other, additional resources required to ensure the success of the proposed program?  
No

Please Explain:

### Assessment

How will the success of the program be measured?  
We will assess growth of the current Center and acquisition of new extramural funding.

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Describe the process of developing and approving the proposed program. Indicate, where appropriate, involvement by faculty, students, community members, potential employers, accrediting agencies, etc.

The Department Head and interested faculty met and considered new names for the Center. We then discussed the change with VP and Dean Charles Boyer, who approved of this name change. We also solicited input of interested parties and arrived at the new name.

**Accreditation Information**

**Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget projections for first three years of operation: (revenues and expenditures)</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional support to be provided, including sources of funds:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Physical facilities and equipment to be provided to the new program, including sources:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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**Library and Information Resources**

| Adequacy and availability of required library and information resources: | N/A |

**Additional Information**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional information</th>
<th>Please ignore the degree code. This form would not submit without it. This is a request to change the name of an existing Center at MSU.</th>
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<td>Supporting Documents</td>
<td>CenterInstituteProposalForm.pdf</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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