

## FACULTY AGENDA ITEM

Date: **4/8/19**

Submitted by: John Mullican ext 2077

SUBJECT: *Bachelor of Science, Forensic Biology*

### Description:

The B.S. degree in Forensic Biology is designed to provide students with both the theoretical and practical knowledge required to obtain employment in the forensic biology field. The curriculum is rooted in a rigorous core of biology and other natural sciences, while also exposing students to legal and ethical considerations that are necessary for any career in forensic science.

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Forensic Biology requires a minimum of 40 BI hours plus the additional 60 credit hours of non-biology correlate courses as listed above. The coursework for the B.S. in Forensic Biology satisfies the 30-hour natural science concentration and is designed to meet the requirements for accreditation as outlined by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). Depending upon a student's math competency, it will take approximately 124-127 credits to complete the B.S. degree in Forensic Biology.

*Full course list in attachment*

### Rationale:

The Biology Department is proposing to offer the B.S. degree in Forensic Biology to provide students with a degree program that would enable them to be competitive for jobs in the forensic biology field. This program is not only designed to meet the requirements set forth by the Federal Bureau of investigation to obtain a position as a DNA analyst but also to meet the requirements for the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). There are less than 30 undergraduate institutions currently FEPAC accredited and none of these institutions are in the state of Kansas, meaning that Washburn University could become a regional leader in this area. Furthermore, the program would look to take advantage of the unique opportunity presented with the establishment of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Forensic Science Center on campus in 2015. The access to a state-of-the-art forensic science facility in addition to potential internship opportunities will enhance Washburn's ability to attract and retain students interested in the forensic biology field.

### Financial Implications:

With a conservative prediction of 9\* B.S. students over the next 5 years (beginning 2019), we might predict a potential increase of \$175,784 in tuition revenue with little to no negative financial impact. The proposed degree program will utilize current faculty members and teaching laboratories in the Washburn University portion of the KBI Forensic Science Center (KBI 200). At least one new course will be developed for this program, BI 420 Forensic Molecular Biology. A budget exists to support courses in the forensic biology degree program, including this new course. Following Year 5, there will be an anticipated one-time cost of approximately \$5,000 to apply for FEPAC accreditation. Please see the attached pro forma document for details.

\*The pro forma assumes that 3 students will graduate after Year 4 and that tuition will not increase over the next 5 years.

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2019

Request for Action: *Approval by AAC /FS/Gen Fac*

Approved by: *AAC on date*

*Faculty Senate on date*

Attachments Yes  No