Biology Department Strategic Plan, April 2007

Goals and Action Items

Goal 1. Optimize curriculum
   a. Determine best way to accommodate large student numbers, especially in introductory classes
   b. Plan for growth agenda and determine additional resources needed
   c. Review course offerings, in light of trends in biology, program assessment data, university needs; make necessary revisions
      1) Incorporate bioinformatics and computational biology into curriculum
      2) Coordinate offerings with other science departments and additional constituencies
      3) Develop General Education offerings in multidisciplinary inquiry and ethical citizenship
      4) Continue to support Biotechnology program through relevant course offerings
   d. Increase internship opportunities for biology majors
   e. Secure additional faculty positions to increase and enhance offerings for majors and non-majors
   f. Enhance undergraduate research opportunities for biology majors
      1) Determine resources needed (supplies, space, faculty time)

Goal 2. Improve and increase departmental space to better meet curricular goals
   a. Maximize use of existing space
      1) Establish remodeling priorities and develop 5-10 year plan*
      2) Submit lab mod proposals to remodel teaching labs during 2007-11
      3) Organize supplies, determine need for additional storage
      4) Evaluate allocation of research spaces
      5) Explore collaborative remodeling of additional spaces in AGS with CAFES
   b. Obtain new space that meets curricular needs and growth
      1) Submit proposal for new building
Goal 3. Enhance access to technology for students and faculty
   a. Get AGS 425 converted to a TEC
   b. Equip all teaching labs with presentation technology (projector, dedicated computer)
   c. Provide access to computers/network in all teaching labs
      1) Obtain funding for mobile laptop cart
   d. Explore collaboration with CAFES to secure computer lab in AGS
   e. Update and re-design department web pages

Goal 4. Increase Equipment, Supplies, and Support
   a. Provide each lab with dedicated equipment and supplies
   b. Obtain additional funding for supplies and equipment, including maintenance of equipment
   c. Obtain additional technical support

Goal 5. Address workload issues
   a. Establish equitable advising loads
   b. Develop a mechanism to provide course credit for mentoring student research
   c. Pursue lecture/lab load equivalence
   d. Explore more flexible options for service and scholarship requirements
   e. Address issues regarding mentoring student research and expectations for publishable research

Goal 6. Enhance collaborations with regional partners
   a. Support Integrative Solutions Consortium with UW-Stout, UWEC, CVTC
   b. Support collaborations with the U of M
*Space renovation priorities for 2007-11:

- Renovate AGS 419 for Biotechnology courses
- Renovate AGS 422 for Microbiology and Cell Biology
- Support renovation of AGS 200
- Obtain equipment for AGS 419 for Biotechnology labs
- Convert AGS 425 into a TEC
- Renovate AGS 418 to address dual use issues (Ecology and Anatomy/Physiology)
- Renovate AGS 423 to support introductory biology curriculum revisions