



Date: March 9, 2020

To: Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor

From: John Stalvey, Interim Provost *John R. Stalvey*

Cc: John Petraitis, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Khrys Duddlestone, Professor; Director, Biological Sciences  
Jonathan Stecyk, Associate Professor  
Susan Kalina, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs  
Claudia Lampman, Vice Provost for Student Success

Re: **AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings – Biological Sciences MS**

I have reviewed the dean's findings, the program's response to the dean's findings, and the completed Expedited Program Review Template for the Biological Sciences MS.

### **Recommendations**

My recommendation is to accept the decision and recommendations of the dean with the additional commentary that the program should develop a non-thesis option. To inform the revision, the program should also conduct an analysis of the recent increase in the number of semesters to graduation, which might be causing a decrease in the number of awards per year. The revision should be completed in AY21 for implementation in fall 2021. An interim progress report on all recommendations is due to the dean by March 1, 2021. The dean will submit a review along with the program's interim progress report to the provost by April 1, 2021. Unless otherwise noted at that time, a follow-up Program Review will be conducted in AY24.

### **Decision**

Recommend Revision