Please attach/submit additional documents as needed to fully complete each section of the form. See information about Level I Proposals.

I. DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM

DBS / Organismal Biology and Ecology (OBE)

II. SUMMARY

The Organismal Biology and Ecology graduate program within the Division of Biological Sciences proposes to change its name to "Organismal Biology, Ecology, and Evolution."

III. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVALS

Requestor: Douglas Emlen
Phone/ Email: doug.emlen@mso.umt.edu
Program Chair: Charles Janson
*Other Affected Programs:

Chris Comer
Dean:

Provost’s Office:

* Are affected because of: (a) required courses including prerequisites or corequisites, (b) perceived overlap in content areas, or (c) cross-listing of coursework. After the Faculty Senate approves the proposal on a consent agenda the Provost’s Office forwards the item for Board of Regents approval at the next possible meeting.
IV. TYPE OF LEVEL I PROPOSAL

☑ Retitling existing majors, minors, options, or certificates
☐ Eliminating existing majors, minors, or options. (submit with BOR program termination checklist)
☐ Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major or an option in a major*
☐ Campus Certificates: Adding, retitling, terminating or revising a certificate of 29 or fewer credits
☐ Revising a program* (for minor modifications use the program modification form)
☐ Distance or online delivery of previously authorized degree or certificate program
☐ Consolidating existing programs and/or degrees *
☐ Placing a program into moratorium
☐ Withdrawing a program from moratorium
☐ Adding BAS/AA/AS Area of Study
*☐ Must submit with BOR Curriculum Proposal Form

V. CATALOG LANGUAGE

Attach the current or proposed catalog language with any changes clearly identified.

VI. JUSTIFICATION

Ecology and Evolution represent distinct fields within biology which ask different types of questions. These areas differ enough conceptually that they are not interchangeable. One half of OBE faculty members conduct research that is explicitly evolutionary, using the tools of modern genetics and genomics to understand patterns of natural variation and the processes that generate them. This research addresses questions about among-individual variation within and among populations; sexual selection and adaptation; reproductive isolation and speciation; and genome evolution, co-evolution, and diversification in organisms from across the tree of life. Faculty members in OBE who fit under an “Evolution” designation include Zac Cheviron, Douglas Emlen, Lila Fishman, Jeff Good, Erick Greene, Winsor Lowe, Scott Miller, and John McCutcheon. The proposed name change would therefore more accurately reflect the breadth of research strengths within the program. It would likewise enhance the visibility of excellence in evolutionary biology research at UM, which will enhance our current efforts to advertise the program and attract new graduate students.

This is a change of name only and will not impact existing administrative or academic procedures or expectations, nor will it affect other departments or programs.

VI SUBMISSION

Submit the complete Level I proposal to the Provost’s Office for initial review. After all signatures have been obtained, submit original, and an electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221, camie.foos@mso.umt.edu
Level I proposals also require Board of Regents approval. The appropriate BOR forms must be submitted with this proposal.