Department of Biology

Annual Assessment Report 2019-2020

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## 1. Recounting the assessment cycle.

This report accounts for our recent assessment cycle:

- · academic year 2017-18: a YeAP was submitted
- · academic year 2018-19: assessment data were acquired and compiled
- · academic year 2019-20: this report is being submitted

This assessment cycle addresses our recent (implemented during the 2018-19 academic year) student-centric changes to our first year curriculum in an effort to improve student achievement within the General Biology courses (BIO101 and BIO102) as well as improved retention within the biology program overall.

Previously, the General Biology lectures took place with all the enrolled students together in a large lecture hall (e.g., BIO 101 served between 80-130 students each year over the past several years). During the 2017-18 academic year, the faculty of the Department of Biology decided to invest a larger proportion of our faculty resources in order to divide these large lecture courses into a set of smaller parallel courses with individual faculty serving approximately twenty students. This new approach was first enacted during the 2018-19 academic

approaches that addressed the application goal of our assessment plan. A copy of this questionnaire is

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16. \_\_\_\_ My attitude toward this course was in part

33As you might be aware, this was the first year in which the biology department has divided the BIO101 course into smaller sections of up to 20 students (instead of a large class of 80-100376. 62 students). Do you feel that a

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successful not only in promoting student learning but student