June 19, 2020

Dr. Kelly M. Miller  
President  
Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5756  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5756

Dear Dr. Miller:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:
Program Closure  
Master of Science (M.S.) in Marine Biology  
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Marine Biology

Submission date:  
4/30/2020

Implementation date:  
9/1/2021

Case ID:  
SC010528

The institution plans to close the following interdisciplinary degree programs (IDP): Master of Science (M.S.) in Marine Biology and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Marine Biology. The IDP programs have been a joint venture of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) and TAMU at Galveston, a branch campus of Texas A&M University. TAMU-CC plans to begin offering independent M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Marine Biology. Administration and faculty at both institutions support splitting the current joint program into two separate programs at TAMU-CC and TAMU at Galveston.

Students will be informed of the closure through a letter from the Registrar’s Office and will have the option of remaining enrolled in the program through completion or transferring to the stand-alone program at TAMU-CC. For TAMU at Galveston students who have to take coursework at TAMU-CC, the institution will make courses available to those students through distance education and directed independent study. TAMU at Galveston will also create these opportunities for TAMU-CC students in the Marine Biology IDP. Students will not incur any additional charges or expenses to complete the program.

Program faculty voted to approve the change and will not be negatively impacted. Faculty and staff will continue their employment and existing duties for the independent programs in Marine Biology.
In addition to the closure notification and teach-out plan for the IDP programs in Marine Biology, the letter notified the Commission of the stand-alone programs noted above. The institution already offers at least 75% of the content required for each program, and no significant additional facilities, physical resources, or library resources will be needed. No additional faculty will be needed, and current faculty supervise dissertations in the joint program. The institution has determined the stand-alone programs are not a significant departure for the University. If the institution has determined the stand-alone programs are not a substantive change, it does not need to notify the Commission.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approves the closure of the Interdisciplinary Degree Programs in Master of Science (M.S.) in Marine Biology and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Marine Biology.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Nuria M. Cuevas at 404-679-4501 or via email at ncuevas@sacscoc.org.

Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

Sincerely,

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President
BSW/MAC:lp

cc: Mr. Bryan G. Baker, Institutional Effectiveness Officer
Dr. Nuria M. Cuevas