University at Albany – State University of New York

Course and Program Action Form

Proposal No. 10-053

Please check one: [ ] Course Proposal [X] Program Proposal

Please mark all that apply:

[ ] New Course
[ ] Cross-Listing
[ ] Shared-Resources Course
[ ] Deactivate/Activate Course (boldface & underline as appropriate)

Revision of:

Number [ ]
Title [X]
Credits [ ]

Description [ ]
Prerequisites [ ]
Other (specify):

Department: Psychology

Effective Semester, Year: Fall, 2010

Degree-Number Current: Biopsychology

New: Behavioral Neuroscience

Program Title: Behavioral Neuroscience

Course Description to appear in Bulletin:

We propose changing the name of the Ph.D. program in Biopsychology to "Behavioral Neuroscience"

See attached form (Appendix E of Graduate Academic Program Proposal).

Prerequisites statement to be appended to description in Bulletin:

If S/U is to be designated as the only grading system in the course, check here:

This course is (will be) cross listed with (i.e., CAS ###):

This course is (will be) a shared-resources course with (i.e., CAS ###):

Explanation of proposal:

The field traditionally referred to for decades as “Biopsychology” has been in a period of enormous transformation and growth in the nation as a whole, emerging as the field of Behavioral Neuroscience. “Biopsychology” as a title for doctoral programs in this area has become an anachronism. As part of our Department’s self-study, external reviewers recommended that we change the name of our program to “Behavioral Neuroscience” to be more consistent with our peer and aspirational institutions.

Other departments or schools which offer similar or related courses and which have certified that this proposal does not overlap their offering:

Not Applicable

Chair of Proposing Department

Approved by Chair(s) of Departments having cross-listed course(s)

[Copy of e-mail approval on following page]

Date: 4/6/10

Dean of College

Gregory Stevens/Edolgar Wurtler

Date: 4/12/10

Chair of Academic Programs Committee

Date: 4/12/10

Dean of Undergraduate or Graduate Studies

Janna Harton

Date:

Form: CAS Course and Program Action Form (revised 2/24/10)
Appendix E: Revision to Existing Graduate Program

1. **Program Title:** Biopsychology  
   Award: PHD  
   SED Program Code: 91589  
   The program does not lead to teacher certification or New York State licensure.

2. **Proposed Change:** Change program title to Behavioral Neuroscience.

   **Rationale:** The field traditionally referred to for decades as “Biopsychology” has been in a period of enormous transformation and growth in the nation as a whole, emerging as the field of Behavioral Neuroscience. “Biopsychology” as a title for doctoral programs in this area has become an anachronism. As part of our Department’s self-study, external reviewers recommended that we change the name of our program to “Behavioral Neuroscience” to be more consistent with our peer and aspirational institutions. Our program in Biopsychology has made the transition from a traditional program in physiological psychology to an updated program in Behavioral Neuroscience, and this title change would be consistent with local and national trends in the discipline.

3. The curriculum for the program has not changed.

4. N/A. No new course are proposed.

5. N/A. No new faculty are required.

6. No additional costs are needed; we are proposing program title change only.

7. Date of change: We would like the title change to become effective as soon as possible, upon State registration update.