

## Proposal for the creation of a Division of Life Sciences

This proposal argues for the need to create an umbrella for the various life-science related majors and programs.

The life sciences continue to increase in scope, and as the number of new fields expands. We can expect that expansion to be reflected in our curriculum and in the organization of our departments. We already have a number of such units in existence- Neuroscience, Biochemistry, and Environmental Sciences and Policy – and expect that additional ones may arise from the planning process (e.g. Biomathematics/Bioinformatics). While mindful of the fact that each of these units will have their own agenda and interests, there are still many interests held in common, ranging from the structure of the curriculum to the support for student and faculty research. We imagine the benefits of this administrative structure would include:

- The ability to coordinate our transactions with College Hall on matters of shared interest (OK- lobby)
- The capacity to apply for external funding in a way that emphasizes the diversity and the integration of the Life Sciences at Smith.
- The possibility of streamlining courses or other offerings that cut across disciplinary boundaries
- The opportunity to create certain economies of scale in the research undertakings of the faculty and students in this Division.

Rob Dorit  
Biology