Title of Existing Program (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in History):

Bachelor of Arts in Biology with Specialization in Quantitative Biology

1. Please provide the name, title, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person for this academic program:

Thomas Gilmore, Professor and Dept. Chair, gilmore@bu.edu, 617-353-5444

2. Please provide the rationale for the proposed dissolution of the major or degree program:

In its current form, the specialization in quantitative biology attracts too few students (a total of four graduates in the past five years) to be a viable degree program. Likewise, the one course specifically dedicated to this program (BI/MA 196) does not attract sufficient enrollments (6, 6, 7, and 8 students in 2010-2013) and has not been taught since 2013.

While quantitative approaches are increasingly important across the breadth of the life sciences, we find that our students are more interested in focusing on specific research areas (our four other specializations — Behavioral Biology; Ecology and Conservation Biology; Neurobiology; and Cell Biology, Molecular Biology & Genetics — remain popular among students), rather than quantitative biology per se. As such, the Biology faculty will re-evaluate the ways in which increasingly important quantitative skills are being developed in students across the breadth of the undergraduate curriculum.

3. Please provide the proposed timetable for the phase-out of the dissolved major or degree program:
We propose that the program no longer be advertised and promoted to incoming students, beginning immediately (Fall 2015). Two current students will be provided the opportunity to complete the program.

4. Please describe the current student body (number of students by year) of the major or degree program and the trajectory of those student cohorts as the program is dissolved. As current students must be allowed to complete the program under the requirements in place when they entered the program, please indicate how that will be achieved and how you plan to communicate options to the current students:

Only two students are currently enrolled in the major in Biology with Specialization in Quantitative Biology. One, a senior who has already taken BI/MA 196, will graduate, having fulfilled all requirements for the major with specialization, in May 2016. The other, a freshman, has decided on a change of major to Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. Thus, we will be able officially to phase out the major with quantitative specialization, effective Summer I 2016.

5. Please describe the budgetary impact that the proposed dissolution will have:

None.