

A RESOLUTION BY THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

February 26, 2004

WHEREAS, it is a responsibility of Ohio educators to present science accurately and to encourage rigorous scientific inquiry; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Plan of the Ohio State University aims to "Significantly strengthen the scope and effectiveness of our commitment to P-12 public education;" and

WHEREAS, science is a systematic method of continuing investigation, based on observation, hypothesis testing, measurement, experimentation, and theory building, which leads to more adequate explanations of natural phenomena, explanations that are open to further testing, revision, and falsification, and may be accepted or rejected on the basis of evidence; and

WHEREAS, the scientific study of evolution, as presently developed, fully satisfies these criteria; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education recently voted for the intent to adopt the K-12 Model Curriculum, including module L10 H23 for the "critical analysis of evolution;" and

WHEREAS, the "critical analysis of evolution" module obscures the theory of evolution with arguments modeled after pseudo-scientific approaches such as "Creationism" or "Intelligent Design," and is rife with factual errors; and

WHEREAS, the "critical analysis of evolution" module guides students and educators to use "Creationist" and "Intelligent Design" references rather than mainstream scientific literature on contemporary issues of evolutionary theory; and

WHEREAS, the module is in contradiction of Standard Indicator 23 which states: "Describe how scientists continue to investigate and critically analyze aspects of evolutionary theory. (The intent of this indicator does not mandate the teaching or testing of Intelligent Design.);" and

WHEREAS, two other modules in the Model Curriculum are aligned to Standard Indicator 23,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Council of the Ohio State University supports the removal of the "critical analysis of evolution" module from the state's Model Curriculum, and supports the addition of new modules aligned with Standard Indicator 23 that accurately reflect scientific issues in contemporary evolutionary biology.