SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS AND
ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCILS

concerning

REVISIONS TO THE ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE (A.S.) DEGREE
IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING IN THE
STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

Presented at the
754th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
January 28, 2016

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL


ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

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ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

The Stockbridge School of Agriculture is proposing revisions to the A.S. degree program in Sustainable Food and Farming. The revisions are motivated by the rapidly growing interest in the online certificate in Sustainable Food and Farming, and are intended to make it possible for students to complete the degree online as well as on-campus. They are also intended to broaden the scope of the degree program from its current focus on production agriculture to include courses in economics, marketing and social systems that will better serve the needs of both the on-campus and online students. Degree requirements for on-campus students and online students will be identical except for a 1-credit first-year seminar that will be required for on-campus students but waived for online students.

At its meeting on December 2, 2015, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approved of the proposal Revisions to the Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree in Sustainable Food and Farming. It was submitted as proposal #1906 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

Proposal #1906 is to revise the Associate of Science Degree in Sustainable Food and Farming so that students could complete the requirements for the Associate of Sciences degree either on campus or online. After extensive discussion with John Gerber on the content and variability of the internships, the integrative activity in reporting experiences, supervision of the appropriateness of the activity, and the many opportunities listed as possibilities for the students to engage in when fulfilling the internship requirements, the APC, at its meeting on December 17, 2015, recommended approval of the proposal.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revisions to the Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree in Sustainable Food and Farming in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 16-026.
The Stockbridge School of Agriculture has offered Associate of Sciences degrees in practical agriculture since 1918. We currently offer 6 A.S. degrees and 4 B.S. degrees including the B.S. in Sustainable Food and Farming.

We began offering online classes in Sustainable Food and Farming in the winter term of 2009. In the Spring of 2012, we graduated our first students from a fully online 15-credit Certificate Program. Since that time we have expanded the online offerings to include 21 classes offered throughout the year and currently have 700 students from all over the world registered for the online Certificate Program. Annual enrollment has grown from 89 online students in 2009 to 516 students in 2015. (NOTE: enrollment figures are included as an attachment).

The following recommendation emerged during strategic planning in the spring of 2015 from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture faculty. We propose minor changes in the existing A.S. degree in Sustainable Food and Farming so that students could complete the requirements for the Associate of Sciences degree either on campus or online.

We plan on accepting applications for the online A.S. degree in January 2016 and the first fully online class will begin classes in Fall 2016 (pending approval of this proposal).

Describe the existing requirements, listing any required courses, various means toward completion, and any other information relating to current practices.

Students in on campus A.S. degree in Sustainable Food & Farming acquire a basic knowledge of plant and soil sciences while gaining specialized training in techniques of plant and animal production. This major offers a degree of flexibility in designing a personal program of study depending on the career interests of the student. Current requirements are included below as well as an attachment.

Current Sustainable Food and Farming - Associate of Science Degree Requirements
The following presents current requirements in the A.S. degree program:

Degree Requirements

A. General Requirements
   MATH 104 (3) or MATH 101/102 (4)
   ENGLWRIT 111 or 112 (3)
   STOCKSCH 105 - Soils (4)
   STOCKSCH 108 - Botany (4)
   STOCKSCH 192 F - First-year Seminar (1)
   Credits = 15-16

B. Agriculture Requirements
   STOCKSCH 101 - Insects & Related Forms (2)
   STOCKSCH 111 - Horticultural Plant Pathology (2)
   STOCKSCH 113 - Horticulture Pathology Lab (2)
   STOCKSCH 300 - Small Fruit Production (3)
   STOCKSCH 305 - Deciduous Tree Fruits (3)
   STOCKSCH 315 - Greenhouse Management (4)
   STOCKSCH 325 - Vegetable Production (4)
   STOCKSCH 198F - Sust. Food/Farming Internship (3)
   One course from the list of Practica and Related Exp. (1-3)
   Credits = 24-26
C. **Electives**

Select courses from the approved lists below so that the total in categories A, B, and C = 60 credits

**Minimum of four Plant & Animal Production Classes**
with at least one of the four being a pest course

**Minimum of one Economic & Social Systems course**

### Approved Courses

**A. Plant & Animal Production Systems**

- ANIMLSCI 103 - Introductory Animal Management (3)
- ANIMLSCI 260 - Farm Animal Care & Welfare
- ANIMLSCI 332 - Basic Animal Nutrition & Feeding (3)
- STOCKSCH 104 - Plant Nutrients (2)
- STOCKSCH 120 Organic Farming and Gardening (4)
- STOCKSCH 182 - Principles of Pesticide Management (2)
- STOCKSCH 235 - Pruning Fruit Crops (2)
- STOCKSCH 265 Sustainable Agriculture (3)
- STOCKSCH 280 - Herbs, Spices & Medicinal Plants (4)
- STOCKSCH 290 W - Organic Weed Control (3)
- STOCKSCH 310 - Principles of Weed Management (3)
- STOCKSCH 326 - Insect Biology (3)
- STOCKSCH 350 Sust. Crop & Soils (3)
- STOCKSCH 355 Community Food Systems 3 credits fall sem
- STOCKSCH 370 - Tropical Agriculture (3)

**B. Economic, Marketing & Social Systems**

- ANIMLSCI 260 - Farm Animal Care & Welfare (4)
- BCT 353 - Business of Building (3)
- EDUC 377 - Intro to Multicultural Education (3)
- NRC 225 - Forests and People (3)
- RES-ECON 262 - Environmental Economics (4)
- RES-ECON 263 - Natural Resource Economics (4)
- STOCKSCH 258 - Urban Agriculture (3)
- STOCKSCH 342 - Pesticides, Policy & Env. (3)

**C. Practica & Related Experiences**

- ANIMLSCI 297DC - Dairy Calf Management (2)
- ANIMLSCI 297E - Dorset Sheep Management II (2)
- ANIMLSCI 297L - Livestock Classic (1)
- ANIMLSCI 297M - Belted Galloway Management II (2)
- ANIMLSCI 297S - Boer Goat Management II (2)
- STOCKSCH 170 - Pesticide Certification (1)
- STOCKSCH 196 - Independent Study (1-6)
- STOCKSCH 298 - Practicum (1-6)
- STOCKSCH 398G - Greenhouse Practicum (1-6)
Describe the proposed requirements, including all course requirements or other means toward completion, as well as any admissions or continuation requirements.

The proposed minor changes in degree requirements and admissions policies are included as attachments (to allow formatting for purposes of clarity). In addition, a spreadsheet is attached providing information regarding tasks that need to be completed by: (Please refer to Proposal #1906 in the Course and Curriculum Management System for these attachments.)

1. The University Registrar
2. Admissions
3. Division of Continuing and Professional Education
4. University Relations

Provide a rationale for these revisions.

The revised A.S. degree program will be more flexible than the current campus-based program to accommodate a more adult population of students who take online classes. These students generally have interests that include but go beyond production agriculture, which is the focus of the current A.S. degree. The new requirements will serve both the on campus and online students.

The minor changes in degree requirements will allow enough flexibility so that a student may graduate having completed their degree requirements either on campus or online. Also an expanded set of courses which are available only online have been added to the list of courses that may satisfy the degree. All of the online courses have been offered previously as part of the current Certificate Program. An attachment is provided indicating current availability of online classes.

List the degree programs (majors) that will be affected by these revisions. If the proposal is the change University-wide requirements (such as General Education requirements), note that it will affect all majors.

None.

If any programs or departments outside of the proposing college will be affected by the proposed revisions, describe those relationships here and include any memoranda of understanding from those colleges and departments as appendices to this proposal.

Online classes offered by the Isenberg School of Management may be applied to the degree requirements for completion of the A.S. degree. In addition, students will be required to take a Math class and English Writing. These classes are currently available online through the Division of Continuing and Professional Education.

Classes listed for departments and majors outside of Stockbridge, currently allow on campus Stockbridge students to enroll if space is available.

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

No additional resources are required, as we currently manage an online Certificate program with more than 700 registered students. Instructors of online classes are paid through the Division of Continuing and Professional Education.

Attach any additional materials, including memoranda of understanding from affected departments outside your college, here. (Please refer to Proposal #1906 in the Course and Curriculum Management System for these attachments.)