

**SPECIAL REPORT**

of the

**ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL, ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL,  
GRADUATE COUNCIL AND PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL**

concerning

**THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF  
PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES AND ENTOMOLOGY  
TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT, SOIL, AND INSECT SCIENCES**

Presented at the  
630<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
April 22, 2004

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**ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL**

The Academic Matters Council has reviewed the proposed Consolidation of the Departments of Plant and Soil Sciences and Entomology into the new Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences. Our review was done with two primary criteria in mind: (1) potential impact on the viability and quality of existing academic programs, and (2) possible consequences for the future competitiveness and vitality of programs and scholarship in areas affected by the consolidation.

In reviewing the rationale and structure of the consolidations related to the new Department, the Council believes that existing academic programs will not be adversely affected. It would appear that this consolidation might offer opportunities to strengthen existing programs through increasing the critical mass of faculty in the new Department and possibly stimulating new interdisciplinary options for students.

At its meeting on April 7, 2004, the Academic Matters Council voted to approve the creation of the new Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences.

**ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL REPORT**

**New Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences from the existing  
Departments of Plant and Soil Sciences and Entomology**

**The Decision**

In response to the request of the Rules Committee that the APC consider Provost Seymour's proposal to form a new Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences from the existing departments of Plant and Soil Sciences and Entomology, the APC voted 11 - 0 to approve the proposal.

**The Rationale**

In response to invitations issued to all faculty in the affected departments, two faculty members attended the March 29, 2004 meeting of the APC. They both voiced support for this consolidation. No negative impact on academic programs involved in the proposed consolidation of Plant and Soil Sciences and Entomology is apparent. On the contrary, the faculty who communicated with the APC about the consolidation supported it and voiced the belief that the change definitely would be beneficial for academic programs in both departments in terms of enhancing teaching and research.

**GRADUATE COUNCIL REPORT**

At its meeting on March 11, the Graduate Council discussed all four consolidation proposals in the Provost's January 7, 2004, memo to Ernest May. The following action was taken on Proposal #2:

**Proposal #2 - Consolidation of Plant and Soil Sciences and Entomology into a new Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences**

After examination of the proposal and supporting materials, and additional input solicited and received from the GPD of one of the affected departments (the other did not respond to the request for input), the Council concluded that the consolidation would have minimal impact on graduate programs or might in fact strengthen them. Therefore, a motion was passed unanimously to "approve Proposal #2."

**PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL REPORT**

April 2, 2004

**New Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences from existing Departments of Plant and Soil Sciences and Entomology**

Dean Cleve Willis began the presentation by providing an overview of the consolidation and operations of the program, noting the way the proposed department will integrate existing programs, stimulate research collaboration, and continue the M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology. The consolidation will strengthen existing teaching and overlapping research programs in both disciplines, provide an environment for new interdisciplinary research, and increase undergraduate Gen Ed offerings.

The proposed consolidation will affect roughly 200 undergraduate and graduate students and approximately 220 Stockbridge students. With 29 faculty, no programs will be lost, and in fact, two or three new concentrations are likely to be offered for students. Governance and resources appeared to be tightly matched.

As with other consolidations, initially this combines but does not integrate two departments. The consolidation seems to require no new resources. The quality of laboratory and teaching facilities are issues but these issues would exist if the departments remained separate. The two departments are quite complementary, one primarily a graduate program with some extensive Gen Ed teaching, the other with large undergraduate and masters -level programs. There is a possibility for growth in research, teaching, and extension. The departments seem likely to achieve integration in the long term. From a budgetary perspective this consolidation could be achieved at minimum cost with the potential for increasing Gen Ed teaching, graduate and undergraduate enrollments, and research activity. The consensus was that this consolidation is on target, well thought out, and intellectually viable.

The Program & Budget Council voted unanimously to approve the creation of the new Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences.

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Consolidation of the Departments of Plant and Soil Sciences and Entomology to the Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-032.  
**36-04**