

**SPECIAL REPORT**

of the

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

concerning the

**CREATION OF A NEW ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT TO BE DESIGNATED AS  
“THE STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE”  
WITHIN THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

Presented at the  
718<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
May 3, 2012

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**Background**

The College of Natural Sciences (CNS) is proposing to create a new academic department from a portion of the existing Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences (PSIS), and to designate that new department as The Stockbridge School of Agriculture (SSA).

Currently, PSIS includes a number of programs and associated faculty whose focus is primarily on agriculture. In the proposed reorganization, the “agricultural” portion of PSIS would become a separate department in CNS. Several faculty members will move from PSIS to the new department, as will three A.S. degree programs:

- Fruit & Vegetable Crops, to be retitled as Sustainable Food & Farming
- Horticulture, to be retitled as Sustainable Horticulture
- Turfgrass Management

The second part of the proposal is to designate the new academic department as The Stockbridge School of Agriculture within CNS. The existing SSA has no academic programs of its own, but instead acts as a service unit that supports a number of A.S. degree programs that are housed in other departments. Under the proposal, SSA would be a true school within a college as described in Sen. Doc. No. 12-021A, and consist of the new department described above. The reasons for so designating the new department are to maintain and strengthen the long-standing identification, both inside and outside of the University, of the name “Stockbridge School of Agriculture” with the University’s agricultural programs.

**AMC Observations**

The proposal notes that, aside from the three A.S. programs listed above, the AS programs now supported by SSA will remain in their current host departments.

**AMC Recommendation**

The Academic Matters Council recommends approval of the proposed Creation of a New Academic Department to be designated as “The Stockbridge School of Agriculture” within the College of Natural Sciences.

**ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL**

**At its meeting on April 17, 2012, the Academic Priorities Council approved the proposal to create the department to be known as the Stockbridge School of Agriculture within the College of Natural Sciences and approved the assignment of the name “Stockbridge School of Agriculture” to the department created.**

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

**The Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee (ASCC) of the Graduate Council met on March 29, 2012 and reviewed a new academic department to be known as The Stockbridge School of Agriculture. The ASCC recommended this proposal for approval.**

**On Thursday, April 19, 2012, through an electronic vote, the Graduate Council approved a new academic department to be known as The Stockbridge School of Agriculture.**

**PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL**

**At its meeting on April 18, 2012, the Program and Budget Council approved this proposal after finding that it requires no new resources and describes an appropriate reallocation of existing resources.**

**MOVED: 55-12 That the Faculty Senate approve the Creation of a New Academic Department to be designated as “The Stockbridge School of Agriculture” within the College of Natural Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-044.**

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
THE FACULTY SENATE

PROGRAM REVISION APPROVAL FORM

35 COPIES REQUIRED

PROGRAM TITLE: CREATE A NEW ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT TO BE KNOWN AS "THE STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE"

PLEASE CHECK: GRADUATE \_\_\_\_\_ UNDERGRADUATE \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT: PLANT, SOIL, & INSECT SCIENCES HEAD/CHAIR: STEPHEN M. RICH

SCHOOL OR COLLEGE NATURAL SCIENCE DEAN: STEVEN D. GOODWIN

Submission Date: March 30, 2012 Proposed Starting Date: JULY 1, 2012

**I. PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT**

**A. Describe the Proposal.**

This document proposes to create a new academic department from a portion of the existing Department of Plant, Soil, & Insect Sciences. The new department will be designated "the Stockbridge School of Agriculture" under the provisions of Sen. Doc. No. 12-021A.

In conjunction with this change, two existing Associate of Science degree programs will be retitled.

**B. Provide a brief overview of the process for developing the Proposal.**

Please see attached materials.

**II. PURPOSE AND GOALS**

**Describe the Proposal's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills to be acquired.**

Please see attached materials.

**III. RESOURCES**

**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.**

This revision requires no additional resources to implement.

**Proposal to Create the Department of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture**

**1. Creation of the Department to be known as the Stockbridge School of Agriculture**

The “new” Stockbridge School of Agriculture (SSA) will function like any other department within the College of Natural Sciences. The Director of the new SSA will function as the head of the department and will bear the responsibilities of any other department head: assigning teaching, overseeing administrative affairs, etc. Likewise, the faculty of the “new” SSA will elect a personnel committee to oversee personnel decisions (tenure, promotions, merit) and form a curriculum committee to supervise courses and programs.

Currently, students in the SSA may pursue six A.S. degrees, offered by four academic departments: Arboriculture & Community Forestry Management (within Environmental Conservation), Equine Industries (within Veterinary & Animal Sciences), Fruit & Vegetable Crops (within Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences), Horticulture (within Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences), Landscape Contracting (within Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning), and Turfgrass Management (within Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences). With the creation of the new SSA, the A.S. programs in Horticulture, Fruit & Vegetable Crops, and Turfgrass Management will move to SSA; the others will remain in their current host departments.

**2. Designation of that Department as the Stockbridge School of Agriculture within the College of Natural Sciences**

Although the University has had an entity called the “Stockbridge School of Agriculture” for many years, that unit has not served as the home to faculty and degree programs. Rather, it has been a service unit supporting students enrolled in the A.S. degree programs offered by the various academic departments. That service unit will now merge into the new department, and it is proposed that the SSA designation be adopted by the new department according to the campus’s policy on Schools within Colleges (Sen. Doc. 12-021A).

- a. The unit will be known as the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, consisting of the academic department created under #1, above.
- b. Because the SSA name has been in use for many years, the rationale in this case is about maintaining and strengthening an identity rather than creating one. The rationale has two parts. First, for many years the campus’s programs in agriculture have been known collectively as the “Stockbridge School of Agriculture.” While this unit did not formally host those programs, to the public this fact was little known and of little importance. Since the administrative support unit with the name SSA is being merged into this new department, for the purposes of continuity of identity it is important to “transfer” the name. Second, the planned addition of standalone B.S. programs in areas currently served by SSA A.S. degree programs reinforces the link between the two-year and four-year curricula, and argues for emphasizing the “Stockbridge” identity.
- c. The designation of the department as the Stockbridge School of Agriculture is unanimously supported by the faculty in the new department, and by the Dean. Moreover, maintaining the strong Stockbridge identity is considered by the Dean to be important to alumni, industry groups, and others.

**3. Retitling Two Associate of Science Degrees within the Stockbridge School of Agriculture**

In parallel with the creation of the new SSA as a department, a separate proposal has been submitted to create baccalaureate degree programs from current concentrations in the PSIS B.S. that will align with the A.S. programs to provide a seamless and efficient transition from A.S. degree to B.S. degree. One of these proposed B.S. programs — Turfgrass Management — will have the same name as the corresponding existing A.S. program. The other two are being proposed with somewhat different names to better reflect developments in the fields and contemporary usage:

“Fruit and Vegetable Crops” will become “Sustainable Food and Farming.”

“Horticulture” will become “Sustainable Horticulture.”

To maintain consistency, it is proposed that the two existing A.S. degrees in these areas also be renamed.

<b>Summary of Changes in Degree Programs in the Proposed Department to be known as the Stockbridge School of Agriculture</b>		
<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Nature of Changes</b>
A.S. in Fruit & Vegetable Crops	A.S. in Sustainable Food & Farming	Retitled, no curricular changes
A.S. in Turfgrass Management	A.S. in Turfgrass Management	No changes
A.S. in Horticulture	A.S. in Sustainable Horticulture	Retitled, no curricular changes
B.S. in Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences (concentration in Sustainable Food & Farming)	New B.S. in Sustainable Food & Farming	No curricular changes
B.S. in Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences (concentration in Turfgrass Science & Management)	New B.S. in Turfgrass Science and Management	No curricular changes
B.S. in Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences (concentration in Horticulture)	New B.S. in Sustainable Horticulture	No curricular changes

Note: changes in shaded cells submitted under separate proposal.