

Contact: Anthony Girardi

PROPOSED NEW PROGRAMS AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Action Requested: Consider recommending to the Board that the proposed new programs at Iowa State University be approved.

Executive Summary: ISU is requesting approval to offer the following new programs:

- Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and the Environment;
- M.S. and PH.D. interdepartmental graduate programs in Nutritional Sciences;
- M.S. in Seed Technology and Business.

The Board Office and the Council of Provosts have reviewed the proposals and recommend approval.

No concerns were raised when these proposed programs were presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education.

The university's responses to the Board of Regents' program approval questions are on file in the Board Office.

Details on the Proposed Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and the Environment:

The proposed program is a three-year program leading to a terminal degree. It would be offered by the Department of English, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

No Unnecessary Duplication. The program's connection with the study of environment would distinguish it from other creative writing programs in Iowa, and set it apart from most other creative writing programs in the country.

Prospective Employment Opportunities. The program is designed to prepare writers for careers that require both knowledge about environmental issues and creative writing skills. Such careers can include fiction and non-fiction writing; publishing and editing positions, particularly with presses which focus on environmental issues; public service positions; teaching careers; and leadership positions in environmental organizations. The field of environmental literature has expanded dramatically in recent years and numerous journals publish environmental literature exclusively.

Resources. Iowa State University reports that no new resources will be required for the program. The English Department will eliminate its Master of Arts in English degree specialty in creative writing and reallocate resources to the proposed M.F.A.

Centrality to Mission. The proposed program builds upon the university's strengths in agriculture, science, and creative writing. The university reports that the proposed program will be more distinctive by its focus on an area of institutional strength and an area closely linked to the land grant mission of the university.

Enrollment. The proposed program's students would include graduates from undergraduate and graduate programs in creative writing, journalism, and environmental studies at Iowa State University, other Regents' institutions, and from institutions worldwide. The university estimates the proposed program will enroll 25 majors by its fifth year.

Details on the Proposed M.S. and PH.D. Interdepartmental Graduate Programs in

Nutritional Sciences: The proposed new M.S. and Ph.D. interdepartmental graduate programs would be administered through the Graduate College. These programs would replace the existing M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition and the Department of Animal Science, which the university requests be terminated contingent upon approval of the new interdepartmental programs.

The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition and the Department of Animal Science would be the primary partners in this multi-departmental collaborative program.

Program Focus. The focus of the programs will be human and animal nutrition. Optional specializations include human nutrition, animal nutrition, global nutrition, and molecular and cellular nutrition. The university reports that the interdepartmental collaboration will support excellence in graduate student recruitment, enhance collaborative opportunities in research, and strengthen the teaching of graduate nutrition.

Prospective Employment Opportunities. The proposed programs would continue to prepare graduates for careers in a range of industries. Graduates of the existing separate programs in FSHN and Animal Sciences assume careers, for example, as teachers and researchers in colleges and universities, and researchers and technicians in pharmaceutical companies, public health organizations, biotechnology companies, and feed- and food-industry companies.

Enrollment. Students for the programs will be attracted from peer institutions around the Midwest. The existing separate programs currently enroll 42 students. The proposed interdepartmental programs are expected to enroll 60 students by 2008. There are no other graduate programs in nutrition in Iowa.

Resources. The university would reallocate resources associated with the existing separate programs to the new Interdepartmental graduate programs.

Centrality to Mission. The proposed programs will build upon the university's strengths in food sciences, food safety, and plant sciences. The programs will also complement the numerous nutrition-related centers on campus, such as the Center for Designing Foods to Improve Nutrition (CDFIN) and the Plant Sciences Institute.

Details on the Proposed M.S. in Seed Technology and Business: The proposed program would be administered through the College of Business. The degree will be offered exclusively as a distance education program.

Program Focus. The proposed curriculum is designed to prepare students for management careers in the seed business and to address the needs of working professionals who require advanced education in technical aspects of the seed business. The 33-credit hour program would include business and science courses adapted to distance education delivery, including courses in seed production, seed conditioning, seed and variety testing, quality, production and research management, and trade and policy.

Prospective Employment Opportunities. Iowa is a leading state in the seed industry. The university's surveys of industry managers estimate substantial demand for skills in seed business. Such factors as improved intellectual property protection and biotechnological innovations are promoting ongoing growth in the seed industry as well as a labor market demand for industry-specific business skills.

Resources. The university reports that no new resources will be required for the program. Program support will be obtained through tuition, fees, and donations.

Enrollment. Students would be recruited from among professionals working in the U.S. and international seed industries or sponsored by development organizations such as the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development.

No Unnecessary Duplication. The proposed program would be the only one of its kind in Iowa.

Centrality to Mission. The program closely aligns with the mission and strengths of the university. The program would complement the work of the Seed Science Center (which includes research, seed testing, training seed specialists and scientists, and providing information to growers and sellers). The program will build upon the university's strengths in agriculture, plant breeding and genetics, and seed sciences.