

REQUEST FOR A NEW PROGRAM AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN GLOBAL RESOURCE SYSTEMS

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to establish a new Bachelor of Science Program in Global Resource Systems which will be administered by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Executive Summary: The proposed program will provide an interdisciplinary approach, matching a technical component from one of the 21 minors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with an understanding of that technical subject within the context of a geographic area. Students will develop expertise in their discipline and will develop transnational leadership skills through an experiential learning component, the study of a foreign language, an immersion experience abroad, and a senior thesis. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. No concerns were raised when it was presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education. The proposed program addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority (1.0) to “ensure high-quality educational opportunities for students.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The proposed program will include multi-disciplinary themes in the context of the physical, biological, and sociological factors affecting global resource systems. Resource systems will include natural resources, agricultural resources (including crops, livestock, and aquaculture), human resources, institutional resources, physical and biological resources, food and fuel resources, knowledge resources, financial resources, and other related resources. The learning outcomes for the proposed program address three areas – technical competence, cultural competence, and leadership and integration competence.
- ◇ **Relationship to existing programs at ISU.** The proposed program will use an integrative approach to build upon existing programs at ISU, drawing attention to the diverse nature of agriculture and life sciences. All academic programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are expected to be strengthened as a result of the expanded emphasis on options to internationalize the undergraduate experience.
- ◇ **Duplication.** There are 12 institutions in Iowa that incorporate an international and cross-cultural emphasis in their programs, including the University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, Drake University, and Central College. However, there are no other programs that are closely related to this technology and resource-based program. The proposed program is patterned after a similar program at the University of British Columbia.
- ◇ **Student demand.** Students understand the need to compete in a global workforce and to be knowledgeable about global affairs and international issues. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has had an increase of more than 500% in the number of students participating in study abroad programs since the mid-1990s; that number is expected to continue to increase during the next ten years.

- ◇ Unique features. ISU is a world leader in agriculture and life sciences instruction and research; it has a long history of faculty engagement in resource issues around the world. The number of professors working internationally provides a unique opportunity for students. There are only a few universities in the United States that are as actively engaged in resources issues abroad as ISU and none currently offers this program. The proximity of the World Food Prize Foundation is also a significant asset for the proposed program.
- ◇ Resources. The proposed program will initially need a half-time professor-in-charge to direct the program. Faculty to teach the core courses and to advise students are currently available. International graduate students as well as domestic graduate students with significant international experience will be used in the seminar series and as teaching assistants. No special facilities or equipment are projected to be required for the proposed program.
- ◇ Cost. The University projects that the cost of the proposed program will be \$110,000 in year 1, increasing to \$253,000 by year 7. The sources of funds include annual tuition revenue, annual College reallocations, external grants, private fundraising, and study abroad scholarships. The College is committed to raising private funds to endow a major portion of the teaching and administrative support for the proposed program, to write grants to private foundations for internship support, and to reallocate funds to the proposed program to grow enrollment in the College.
- ◇ Need/Demand. In an article titled, “The Foreign Legions,” *The New York Times* (November 2007) described what has become a national consensus – “globally fluent graduates are essential to American competitiveness.” International experience is critical for new employees, yet the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges documented America’s failing grade on virtually all indicators of international knowledge in its 2004 report, “A Call to Leadership: The Presidential Role in Internationalizing the University.” Students in the agriculture and life sciences will work in fields that will feed and fuel the world and they will need to understand the international dimensions of their technical fields of study.
- ◇ Projected enrollment. The projected enrollment is 10 students in Year 1, increasing to 130 students by Year 7. The program also expects to enroll non-majors in specific courses. ISU plans to launch a nationwide and worldwide marketing effort to attract students to the proposed program.
- ◇ Link to institutional strategic plan. The proposed program addresses ISU’s mission “to create, share, and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.” It also addresses ISU’s Strategic Plan priority “to strengthen undergraduate, graduate, and professional education to enhance student success at the university and beyond.” This will be achieved through enhancement of students’ understanding of global, cultural, ethical, and diversity issues and by increasing interdisciplinary and experiential learning opportunities, such as learning communities, service learning, internships, research experiences, and international exchanges.