

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Request to Discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Professional Agriculture
Date: May 6, 2002

Recommended Action:

Approve Iowa State University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Professional Agriculture after the last student has completed the program.

Executive Summary:

Discontinue B.S. Degree The University is requesting discontinuance of the undergraduate major in Professional Agriculture offered by the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies in the College of Agriculture.

Rationale The Professional Agriculture Bachelor of Science was approved as an off-campus distance delivery program in 1990. The original intent of the program was to provide a means for farmers in Iowa to complete the Bachelor's degree without attending classes in Ames. Initially, face-to-face workshops, courses and other meetings were held across Iowa for students. Technological advances (i.e., the ICN and web-based delivery) have resulted in different approaches to course delivery. The result is that the original intent of the program is not being served to the extent envisioned in 1990.

Additionally, many departments are having difficulty offering the needed courses, and students are experiencing difficulty in meeting general education requirements, such as the U.S. Diversity and International Perspectives requirement.

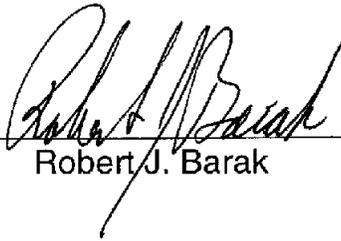
Due to the significant investment in time and energy, and conversely few graduates, the faculty has voted to discontinue the program.

Redirection
of Effort

Upon elimination of the program, faculty and staff time within the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies will be redirected to higher priority curriculum areas.

Impact
on Students

Most of the currently enrolled students in this program have indicated that termination of the program will not impact their academic plans. Regent policy requires that the program not be terminated until all currently enrolled students graduate from the program.



Robert J. Barak

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols