



TO: CALS APC & Curriculum Committee
FROM: Sarah Pfatteicher, Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
DATE: 11 September 2012
RE: Permission to Discontinue Agricultural Education Undergraduate Major
CC: Jocelyn Milner, Noah Feinstein, Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell, Jeff Hamm

Request:

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is requesting permission to discontinue the Agricultural Education major, and hereby seeks your input on this request, advisory to the dean, prior to submitting documentation to the UAPC.

Background:

On 1 December 2009, the CALS APC unanimously passed a motion to suspend admission to the Agricultural Education major, offered in partnership with the School of Education. In early 2010, the UAPC approved the request, and admissions were suspended beginning with the next academic cycle. The UAPC required that a follow-up report be provided by October 2013, with a request to either re-open admissions or discontinue the program. In keeping with the intent and plan at that time, we now request permission to discontinue the program, effective 1 June 2013.

As noted in the suspension request (attached), the program had long had low enrollments and insufficient faculty, and other programs exist elsewhere in the state. In addition, the program here is no longer accredited by the Department of Public Instruction.

In late 2009, there were 7 students in the program, including 4 in the teacher certification program, all of whom were promised and provided individual advising regarding their plans to graduate and become certified.

Plans for Accommodating Enrolled, Stopped-out, and Prospective Students:

As of Fall 2012, there are no students currently enrolled in the program.

In Spring 2012, two students remained in the program, both advised by Prof. Feinstein. One of those two has chosen to withdraw from school to pursue another career path and thus is no longer enrolled. The other student is a returning adult student who has been enrolled off and on since 1978. Though he has been meeting with Prof. Feinstein on a semi-regular basis, he has not been making progress in the program in recent terms. He withdrew from school during the spring term and is not enrolled for Fall 2012.

If either of these students (or any other students who stopped out prior to completing the program) chose to return to school, CALS would place them in the ALS 000 (i.e., no major) classification and provide advising through our MIU-funded Transitional Advising Service, as is our intent with any other students wishing to return to a program that no longer exists. These advisors, in consultation with the associate dean of the college, would work with the students to identify an appropriate new

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major, or to design an individualized major that could closely mirror the Agricultural Education curriculum (for those who are close to completion of the Ag Ed curriculum). Any student who wished to pursue teacher certification would be encouraged to explore possibilities via the deans' office in the School of Education, with close collaboration from CALS.

Prospective students interested in CALS majors (including those that have been discontinued) have access to our Director of Prospective Student Services, who works closely with our Transitional Advising Service, and can guide students to other programs here at UW-Madison, or more suitable programs around the state.

Faculty Affiliated with the Major:

There are no longer any faculty formally associated with the program as an undergraduate major, though faculty do exist on campus with a strong interest in supporting agri-science education at the K-12 level. Assistant Professor Noah Feinstein, hired as director of the Ag Ed program in 2008, has a new appointment in Community and Environmental Sociology (CALS) and Curriculum & Instruction (SoE), with a research and instruction focus on science education.

Stakeholder Communications:

Key stakeholders for the program were informed in 2009 of the steps being taken by the college to eliminate the program. Letters of support from constituents were provided as part of the request in 2009. Evidence of these communications is provided in the appendix.

Following the suspension of admissions in 2010, efforts were made to either remove the program or list it as "no longer accepting new students" on brochures, websites, catalogs, and other documentation available to current and prospective students. If permission is granted to discontinue the major, this phase-out would continue.



Date: December 14, 2009

To: Paul DeLuca
Provost

From: Irwin Goldman 
Interim Dean and Director

Re: Suspension of Enrollment in the Agricultural Education Major

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 1, 2009, the College's Academic Planning Council approved a request to immediately suspend enrollment of students in the Agricultural Education major (code 031). We understand this motion requires action by the University Academic Planning Council and ask that it be placed on their agenda at the earliest possible time. Supporting materials are attached. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

c. Jocelyn Milner
Noah Feinstein
William Tracy
Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell
Robert Ray

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences recommends immediate suspension of enrollment for students in the Agricultural Education major (code 031).

Background: The College has offered this major for many years. Over time, decline in student interest, budget reductions, changes in teacher licensure and changes in the campus's overall teacher education infrastructure have made it more challenging to deliver an effective program. Two years ago, we successfully recruited a faculty member to lead an agriscience education program and integrate the college's strengths with the strong science education program in the School of Education.

As we were hiring the new faculty member, the Department of Public Instruction and the School of Education were undergoing program review, revision and reaccreditation. We were informed in late September that our accreditation had lapsed: graduates of our Ag Ed program will no longer be legally licensed to teach agriculture in public schools.

Two factors cause us to reconsider regaining accreditation. First, as a result of recent changes in certification requirements and administration at DPI, reaccreditation would require an abnormal investment of time and human resources. Second, a likely shift toward a post-baccalaureate teacher education at SoE's forces us to re-visit the integration of the Ag and Science programs. At best, this change would require going through the re-accreditation process a second time in 2-3 years. At worst, it would render the integration of the two programs impossible.

Noah Feinstein and Irwin Goldman have each met individually with all four of the currently enrolled students. We have an emerging agreement with DPI to grant these students certification. Through this process, several have indicated a desire to change to another major. All of the students are currently considering their options. Every effort will be made to accommodate them in spring courses to facilitate their academic goals. CALS is offering each of the four students a one-semester full tuition scholarship.

Pending approval of the motion, no new students will be allowed to enter the program, effective immediately. At present, we want to suspend the enrollment but not eliminate the major. Although we are not planning to reactivate the teacher preparation program, we are committed to retaining an ag ed program in some form. We are mindful of the campus expectation (<http://apa.wisc.edu/UAPC/uapcchangestoprograms.html>) that action to either reorganize or discontinue the major must be made within 2-3 years of suspending admissions.

Text of e-mail sent to each student by Dean Irwin Goldman

Dear _____

Thank you for meeting with me over the past two weeks to discuss your concerns, ideas, and plans regarding your Agricultural Education program. I very much appreciated our discussions and the chance to learn from each of you firsthand about how our decisions regarding the program have affected you. I was also impressed with your forthrightness and with your desire to succeed. I am writing now to outline how the college is prepared to help you with this situation.

1. We have received word this week that the Department of Public Instruction **will** allow you to continue toward teacher certification in agriscience education at UW-Madison. This is a special exception for currently enrolled students only, and it does not change our program's accreditation status. Although in our individual conversations, you expressed an interest in moving on to another major, the option for certification still exists. I would welcome your feelings about whether you would like to proceed with teacher certification.
2. We recognize this situation has been a challenge to your own academic planning. You may have registered for Spring 2010 courses under the premise that teacher certification was not available to you and may have already made arrangements to switch your academic and/or career path. For this reason, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences will offer you a one-semester scholarship to support your UW-Madison in-state tuition costs for either the Spring or Fall 2010 semesters. You may accept this scholarship regardless of whether you elect to stay in the agriscience education major or pursue another UW-Madison major. I realize that this offer may have implications for your current financial aid package, and I have appointed an advisor in our Undergraduate Programs and Services office to help you examine your financial aid options.
3. If possible, I would like to follow up with you before the end of the semester to continue our conversation and make sure I understand your plans. Please contact me to set up a time to meet in person or talk by phone.

Thank you for your understanding throughout this process, and please let me or Madelyn Alt in our office know when we might be able to talk again to follow up on your responses.



21 November 2009

Academic Planning Council
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Agriculture Hall

Dear Colleagues,

As the chair of the Department of Agronomy and a long-time proponent of agriscience education, I am acutely aware of the changing circumstances of agriscience education at UW-Madison and the challenges that our teacher preparation program has faced over the past decade. The current proposal to suspend enrollment in the agriscience majors currently offered through the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has been discussed by the faculty of the Department and Agronomy and we support the proposal.

Although it will be sad to lose the teacher preparation program, it is both appropriate and desirable to shift the focus of our agriscience education activities. There is widespread interest in agriculture, particularly food systems, across the campus, the state and the country. We, as a college, should respond by working to raise awareness and build a more complete understanding of agriculture and agricultural science in our community, broadly conceived. Because of the strength and vitality of agricultural research in CALS, we have both a unique capacity and a responsibility to support *this* type of agricultural education.

Thank you for your service on this important governance committee.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'William F. Tracy'. The signature is enclosed in a simple oval-shaped line.

William F. Tracy
Professor and Chair – Agronomy
Friday Chair of Vegetable Research
wftracy@wisc.edu



November 23, 2009

Academic Planning Council
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Agriculture Hall

Dear Colleagues,

As a long-time member and now chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and as a strong advocate for teacher education, I am obviously saddened by the loss of any teacher certification program. On the other hand, after having discussed the history and current circumstances of agricultural education at UW-Madison with colleagues in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, I agree that a change in direction is necessary.

There are exciting opportunities for collaboration between CALS and the School of Education, and I see in this transition the potential to build new, substantive connections that will benefit our undergraduate and graduate students as well as K-12 students and communities around Wisconsin. I fully support this proposal to suspend enrollment in the agri-science majors currently offered through the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

I look forward to hearing about new developments in this area.

Sincerely,
Gloria Ladson-Billings

Gloria Ladson-Billings, Professor & Chair
Department of Curriculum & Instruction
Kellner Family Chair in Urban Education



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

To: Sarah Pfatteicher, Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
From: Prof. John Rudolph, Chair
Department of Curriculum & Instruction
Date: September 6, 2012
Re: Permission to Discontinue Agricultural Education Major
CC: Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell, Jeff Hamm

In response to the request for feedback on the decision to discontinue the Agricultural Education Major dated September 4, 2012, the Department of Curriculum & Instruction expresses its support for the move to discontinue this program.

Although the Department has long had a strong interest and a number of connections to various teacher certification programs across campus, we recognize that with dwindling resources the continuation of all such programs is prohibitive. We feel that it makes sense that certification tracks such as the Ag Ed Certification Program that have low student enrollments and little faculty buy in be discontinued.

The plan for phasing out the program including the manner in which any remaining or interested students will be dealt with appears to be more than adequate. The Department would be glad to help with this phase-out in any way it can.



September 6, 2012

To: Sara Pfatteicher
Professor and Interim Associate Dean, College and Agriculture and Life Sciences

From: Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell *Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell*

Professor and Associate Dean, School of Education

Re: Discontinuing Agriculture Education

The School of Education supports discontinuing the Agriculture Education major. At one time, this program was a joint program with the School of Education, with courses leading to teacher licensure. We supported suspension of admissions to the major in Spring 2010 because of extremely low/nearly non-existent demand. At that time, I also notified the Department of Public Instruction of the suspension of this licensing program with no intention of reactivating it in the current DPI approved form. Since the last two students associated with the program are no longer pursuing this license, the discontinuation of this program will not impact School of Education programs or its students in any way. Following approval, I will notify DPI in regards to the action.