

# AACR 4

Office of the President  
May 3, 2011

Members, Board of Trustees:

## CHANGE IN DEGREE – COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve a change in the name of the Master of Science with a major in Plant and Soil Sciences to Master of Science with a major in Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences (CIP Code: 01.1199, PROG: GS MS IPSS), effective in the Fall 2011 Semester.

Background: Graduate students in plant and soil sciences and horticulture come from diverse backgrounds with diverse interest. The existing rigid core structure of the program is an impediment to students who arrive with significant prior experience or who have specific career objectives. The revised program maximizes the flexibility of coursework to which students may be exposed, yet provides key common skills in required courses. The exposure of all students in the Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences program to the value of interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving as well as the merits of cross-disciplinary education will serve as a cohesive tool for generating mutual respect and admiration among IPSS students, and help them develop more creative approaches to problem solving in their own research programs.

This proposal has the approval of the Graduate Council, Senate Council and University Senate. The provost of the University supports this recommendation.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_