

ASACR 6

Office of the President
April 30, 2019

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND ENVIRONMENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science degree with a major in Science Translation and Outreach, within the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, beginning in the Fall 2019 Semester.

Background: The Cooperative Extension Service has been engaged in science translation for more than 100 years. Extension agents work directly with local leaders and the public to address diverse public needs in different communities. Rapid scientific progress and increasing complexity have created a need for transdisciplinary education in science translation. The proposed program addresses this need through a set of required courses focusing on program development and evaluation, science literacy and translation, and research methods; elective courses allowing specialization; and a capstone course. While not exclusively targeted to such individuals, the proposal notes that nearly 100 college employees are enrolled in master's programs at other institutions. Many of these individuals are Extension Agents, a population for whom earning a master's degree opens career advancement possibilities. The proposed online degree program will address the need of such Extension Agents and others. A cohort of 10 students per year is anticipated.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate, and has completed the 30 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____