

ASACR 6

Office of the President
May 8, 2015

Members, Board of Trustees:

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION WITH THE UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE VICOSA

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a new dual degree program between the University of Kentucky (UK) Department of Plant Pathology and the Departamento de Fitopatologia at the Universidade Federal de Vicosa (UFV) in Brazil, effective in the Fall 2015 Semester.

Background: Both programs are ranked among the top five similar departments in their respective countries. Students in the dual degree program will earn doctoral degrees in Plant Pathology from both institutions by simultaneously completing the requirements of both programs. The advantages to the students include the unique ability to obtain advanced practical training and to develop cultural and language fluency in both the United States and Brazil, while the advantages to the respective departments include the ability to recruit academically superior students from both countries and facilitation of research collaborations to focus on plant disease problems of mutual interest. The departmental strengths are complementary, with UK specializing in the molecular and cellular biology of plant-microbe interactions and UFV focused primarily on applied pathology and sustainable approaches to plant disease management.

This dual degree program will allow students to acquire academic credits and develop part of the research for their doctoral dissertation at the partner university. A minimum stay of 12 consecutive months at the partner university will be required for the program. The goal is to prepare students to work across borders in academic, government, or industry settings. Graduates of the program will be able to leverage resources from both countries to solve problems of mutual interest at the highest level.

The proposal for the dual degree program has been approved by the faculty in the Department of Plant Pathology; and reviewed and recommended by the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this proposal.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____