



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Dr. Timothy Boosinger
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

THROUGH: Constance Relihan
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies

THROUGH: Paul Patterson
Dean, College of Agriculture

FROM: J. David Williams
Head, Department of Horticulture

DATE: April 21, 2016

SUBJECT: Proposed BS in Agricultural Science

We request that the following proposal be added to the Board of Trustees' agenda for their June 10, 2016 meeting.

Program Purpose and Description: The program will provide diversified agricultural education for those seeking positions in agricultural companies, producer groups, and agricultural extension agencies.

Justification for Request: There is a high need for competent professionals in the field of agriculture with a broad knowledge base. This program will provide a general agriculture science degree that has been demanded from various stakeholder groups. Agribusiness firms today are very diverse and seek employees with broad knowledge. The program will also provide a double major option for Agriscience Education students. Currently, Alabama State Department Education mandates that each teacher preparation program be completed as a double major with the corresponding science or arts program; this program will serve that function for Agriscience Education students. The need for this program is also demonstrated by the number of Agriscience Education graduates that are recruited by agricultural agencies away from the secondary classroom. There is a current drastic shortage of secondary agriscience teachers that is exacerbated by this attraction of individuals away from the secondary classroom because of their diverse agricultural training. The proposed program has been endorsed by the Alabama Farmers Federation, Agricultural Science Alumni, Agriscience education teachers, Horticulture Faculty, Agriscience Education Faculty and College of Education Administration at Auburn University.

State Need: No other four-year institutions in the state of Alabama offer a general agricultural science program at the undergraduate level.

Employment Opportunities: A degree in Agricultural Science will prepare students as practitioners in agricultural business, formal and non-formal education, extension education, and other agriculture-related fields. Graduates will be adept at developing and implementing programs that prepare individuals for the agricultural industry and keep the general public literate to the importance of agriculture and food, fiber, and natural resources in our daily life.

The scope of employment opportunities that the program will offer ranges from small scale local entities to multi-national agrochemical and agricultural biotechnology corporations. Examples of the wide variety of career choices the program might offer graduates include positions as Extension Educator, Organizational Trainer, Consumer Relations Manager, Corporate Sales Representative, and many others. There are an estimated 250 job openings for graduates of this program, with an estimated 15 for the local area, 75 for the state, 75 for the region, and 85 at the national level.

Student Demand – Enrollment Projections: Creation of this degree will result in an immediate enrollment of approximately 40 undergraduate students as double majors. This number is expected to increase due to those who will enroll for the Agricultural Science major alone. Student enrollment for the program itself, not counting Agriscience education students, is expected to be approximately 60 students per year.

Resource Requirements: All courses and instructors necessary for offering the program are already in place.

Recommendation: We recommend that the proposed BS in Agricultural Science be approved by the Offices of the Provost and the President and be forwarded to the Board of Trustees and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for review and approval.