

TRANSMITTAL AND ABSTRACT OF SENATE REPORT

Date Presented to the Senate: April 6, 2009

Presenter: Carmen Balthrop, Chair, Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee

Subject of Report: Proposals to rename the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Natural Resource Sciences as the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Plant Sciences

Senate Document Number: 08-09-24

Voting: (a) on resolutions or recommendations one by one, or
(b) in a single vote
(c) to endorse entire report

A. Statement of Issue:

In 2006, as part of a reorganization in the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources two new departments were formed – Environmental Science and Technology and Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. As part of that reorganization, the M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs in Natural Resource Sciences (NRSC) were split, with the soil science component moving to now approved degree programs in Environmental Science and Technology. The M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in NRSC are now composed entirely of the plant science curricula. The degrees should be renamed to bring the programs into alignment with the name of the department, to more accurately reflect the curricula, and to complete the last step of the reorganization.

The proposals were submitted to the Senate by the Office of Academic Affairs following favorable recommendation by the Academic Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) on February 2, 2009, the Graduate Council Programs, Curricula and Courses Committee on February 19 (with email notification to the full Graduate Council) and the Senate Programs, Curricula & Courses Committee on February 27. If the Senate approves the proposals, they would still require further approval by the President and the Chancellor (with notification to the Maryland Higher Education Commission).

B. Recommendation:

The Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses recommends that the Senate approve the name changes.

1. Rename the M.S. in Natural Resource Sciences as the M.S. in Plant Sciences
2. Rename the Ph.D. in Natural Resource Sciences as the Ph.D. in Plant Sciences

C. Committee Work:

The Committee considered the proposal at its meeting on February 27, 2009. Associate Dean Leon Slaughter (Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources) and William Kenworthy (Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture) were present to answer questions. After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the name changes.

D. Alternatives:

The Senate could decline to approve the name changes.

E. Risks:

If the Senate does not approve the changes, the degree names will not accurately reflect the curricula.

F. Financial Implications:

There are no indications of a financial risk.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL**

DIRECTIONS:

- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for **each** proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED 11-05-08

PCC LOG NO. 08032

COLLEGE/SCHOOL Agriculture and Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA)/Natural Resource Sciences (NRSC)

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD DELETE CHANGE X

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide **old** and **new** sample programs for curriculum changes.)

This proposal is to change the name of the Master of Science (MS) graduate program in Natural Resource Sciences (NRSC) to Plant Science (PLSC).

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

The Department of Natural Resource Sciences and Landscape Architecture was reorganized and renamed Plant Science and Landscape Architecture in 2006. This change more accurately reflects the name and mission of the department and more accurately describes the graduate program and the interests of the graduate faculty and students. No new resources are required for this change.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair Craig Walsh, C. Swaleh 11-5-08
2. Department Chair William J. Kenworthy, William King 11-5-08
3. College/School PCC Chair Scott Glenn, Scott Dun 12-9-08
4. Dean Jim Smith 12-09-08
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required) _____
6. Chair, Senate PCC _____
7. Chair of Senate _____
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost _____

Rationale and Justification:

In 2006 the Departments of Natural Resource Sciences and Landscape Architecture (NRSL) and Biological Resources Engineering (ENBE) in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources were reorganized and renamed. NRSL was renamed the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA) while ENBE was renamed Environmental Science and Technology (ENST). Faculty from the old NRSL department with interests in soil science transferred to the ENST department. PSLA is now focused on plant based sciences and management along with application of research to help solve the pressing problems in agriculture, urban ecosystems and plant conservation. The graduate program advances training and research at all levels of organization: from the genomic and molecular level to the whole organism, to agricultural systems and to natural and designed ecosystems. Changing the name of the MS program in Natural Resource Sciences (NRSC) to Plant Science (PLSC) will bring the name of the program in line with the department name. This will more accurately reflect the mission and focus of the department, faculty and graduate students.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK ORIGINAL
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL**

DIRECTIONS:

- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for **each** proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED 11-5-08

PCC LOG NO. 08033
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COLLEGE/SCHOOL Agriculture and Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA)/Natural Resource Sciences (NRSC)

PROPOSED ACTION (*A separate form for each*) ADD DELETE CHANGE

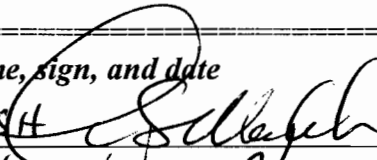
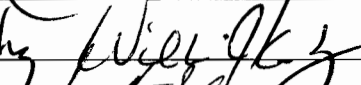
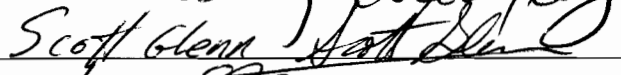
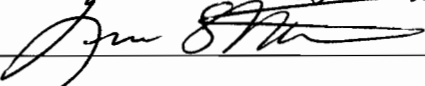
DESCRIPTION (*Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide **old** and **new** sample programs for curriculum changes.*)

This proposal is to change the name of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) graduate program in Natural Resource Sciences (NRSC) to Plant Science (PLSC).

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (*Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.*)

The Department of Natural Resource Sciences and Landscape Architecture was reorganized and renamed Plant Science and Landscape Architecture in 2006. This change more accurately reflects the name and mission of the department and more accurately describes the graduate program and the interests of the graduate faculty and students. No new resources are required for this change.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - *Please **print** name, sign, and date*

- | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| 1. Department Committee Chair | <u>CHRIS WADSWORTH</u>  | <u>11-4-08</u> |
| 2. Department Chair | <u>William J. Kenworthy</u>  | <u>11-5-08</u> |
| 3. College/School PCC Chair | <u>Scott Glenn</u>  | <u>12-9-08</u> |
| 4. Dean |  | <u>12-09-08</u> |
| 5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required) | _____ | |
| 6. Chair, Senate PCC | _____ | |
| 7. Chair of Senate | _____ | |
| 8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost | _____ | |

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