Proposition: 11-0607 (Corrected)

Date Submitted: 11/27/06
Effective Date: Fall 2007

Sponsors: Senators:
CAHE: Carlos Rosencrans
       Mark Anderson
       Kathy Landers

Proposed Committee Assignment: Scholastic Affairs
Assigned Committee: Scholastic Affairs

Title: Major in Agriculture and Community Development in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education

Proposal:

The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education is requesting Faculty Senate approval to start a new major in Agriculture and Community Development.

Rationale:

- The major will replace the following low enrollment programs: Option in Extension and Nonformal Education (Ag. and Extension Ed. Major). Option in Behavioral Ag. Sciences (General Ag. Major).
- It is predicted that 50% of USDA professionals and a large number of New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service (CES) agents will be retiring in the next five years. Roles of CES, USDA, NMDA, and other agricultural and natural resource agency professionals are changing. This major is designed to meet emerging agency needs with employees who have a broad education in agriculture and natural resources plus skills in leadership, communications and education.
- The new major will produce a systems thinker who understands how different technical agricultural subsystems operate and interact in a larger context and people (leadership, communications, and education) skills.
- The new major requires students to take at least 62 credits in technical agricultural and natural resource sciences courses, 12 of which are in an internship/emphasis area that will allow students to better prepare for targeted occupations.
- Similar programs at Texas A&M and Iowa State Univ. have 600+ and 300+ students respectively. These programs are housed in their Ag. Ed. Departments.
- The name and curriculum for the new major were developed on the basis of results from an on-line survey to CES agents and USDA professionals. Additional input from all other departments in the College of Ag. and Home Economics was also incorporated.
• The new major is designed for undergraduate students who come directly to the NMSU main campus after high school and undergraduate students who transfer from community colleges with Associates degrees in agriculture.
• The College of Agriculture and Home Economics is developing an Associate of Science degree in agriculture with our community college campuses.

Collaboration:

• Students will take technical courses (e.g., ANSC 100, HORT 250, EPWS 100) in at least six out of eight departments in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics (CAHE) and general education courses from outside the college.
• The name and curriculum for the major in Agriculture and Community Development were selected with input from professionals in CES and USDA, as well as input and approval from representatives of the other seven CAHE departments on the college’s curriculum committee.

Funding and Library Resources:

The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education is not initially seeking additional faculty or operating dollars to administer the major in Agriculture and Community Development. The university library has investigated and found that they will not require additional funding to support this newly proposed undergraduate major.

Administration:

The program will be administered within the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, College of Agriculture and Home Economics.