MEMORANDUM

TO: Allan R. Landon
    Chairperson, Board of Regents

VIA: David McClain
     President

FROM: Virginia S. Hinshaw
      Chancellor

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF THE BACHELOR OF
       SCIENCE DEGREE IN TROPICAL PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES
       FROM PROVISIONAL TO ESTABLISHED, COLLEGE OF TROPICAL
       AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
       AT MANOA

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Board of Regents approve a change in the status of the Bachelor of Science degree in Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences (TPSS), College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, from provisional to established.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2008

ADDITIONAL COST:

None. The proposed degree program will not require additional funds for staffing or operations. All courses currently are being taught by existing program faculty.

PURPOSE:
Changing the status of the BS degree in TPSS from provisional to established will add stability to an academic program that has been in existence for seven years and is growing in student numbers.

The mission of the Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Science is to marshal its intellectual resources to serve the State of Hawaii and the Asia/Pacific region through teaching, research and outreach. The faculty is committed to meeting this challenge with programs directed toward improved plant production, food safety and marketing systems for enhanced economic opportunity in the State of Hawaii and the Asia/Pacific region.

The Department’s purposes are to:
- Foster an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to undergraduate, graduate, and extension education; to prepare students to assume roles as leaders and decision-makers, to pursue advanced education in plant and soil sciences.
- Create, develop, integrate and disseminate knowledge of, and practices in, plant and soil systems and food safety in the tropics.
- Develop solutions and identify market-driven opportunities in plant production, food safety and management systems in Hawaii and the tropics.
- Investigate fundamental biological, chemical and physical processes in plants and soil system and food safety applicable to tropical crops.
- Adapt and apply the newer biotechnology findings to Hawaii’s tropical crops.
- Improve the State’s competitive position as reliable supplier of safe high quality commodities.
- Encourage an interdisciplinary systems approach that includes basic and applied research, instruction and extension.
- Enable decision makers by drawing upon available knowledge and experience in agricultural systems.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Board of Regents’ Policy 5-1 confers upon the Board the authority to establish degree programs upon the recommendation of the President. University of Hawaii Executive Policy requires that requests for changes from provisional to established respond to seven questions in Policy E5.201. The response is presented in Appendix 1.

The Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences undergraduate program was developed to emphasize modern plant production strategies and tactics and the adaptation and application of biotechnology that is environmentally and economically sustainable. This is being achieved by providing comprehensive interdisciplinary learning experiences for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in TPSS programs. Students in the TPSS program must be team workers and be people-, time-, and money-managers. Knowledge is changing too fast to allow scientists to be oriented to a single discipline. TPSS’s multi-disciplinary unit has therefore developed an undergraduate program that assists students in preparing for employment in a setting very different from that of
today and the past few decades. Broad knowledge helps students become more successful and productive. Equally important, TPSS faculty are adjusting to the demands of tomorrow by working in teams to build curricula, research and extension programs that are relevant.

The representation of numerous disciplines in the department encourages interdisciplinary approaches in solving problems. Examples of application of these approaches are optimization of nutrient management to enhance plant production while minimizing environmental impact and maximizing profitability; development of new varieties of fruits; adaptation and application of biotechnology to tropical crops, vegetables, nuts, and flowers; introduction of new crops; and development of plant production management systems. At the same time, scientists need to continue to expand the knowledge base in their disciplines and cooperate with researchers in other disciplines in multidisciplinary research projects that involve undergraduate students. This involves the networking of activities throughout the state in order to take advantage of the islands’ environmental, geologic, and soil diversity for systematic research and technology transfer.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve a change in the status of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, from provisional to established, to be effective Fall 2008.

Attachments

c: Linda K. Johnsrud, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs