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Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, July 10, 2008

Utah State University

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AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
TO BE HELD AT
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY, CEDAR CITY, UTAH

JULY 10 – 11, 2008

Utah State Board of Regents
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Board of Regents Building, The Gateway
60 South 400 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1284
v. Reorganization of Minors: Combine the Horse Production and Horse Training Minors into a Single Equine Minor and the General Animal Science and General Dairy Science Minors into a Single Animal and Dairy Science Minor

Request: Utah State University’s Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences (ADVS) requests to combine the Horse Production and Horse Training minors into a single Equine minor and the General Animal Science and General Dairy Science minors into a single Animal and Dairy Science minor, effective Fall 2008.

Need: The ADVS Department is administered by the College of Agriculture (COA). It is one of the largest departments on campus, is very complex, and highly diversified. The mission of the ADVS Department is to provide teaching, research, extension, and professional service to support the animal industries of Utah, the surrounding region, the nation, and the international community.

In November 2004, the ADVS Department hosted a review team representing the United States Department of Agriculture – Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). Following a thorough critique of the ADVS Department, both verbal and written reports were prepared by the CSREES review team. This critique identified areas within the department with the greatest potential to impact students, the people of Utah, and the national and international communities. It also identified areas having the greatest potential to increase the stature and reputation of the department.

As a consequence of the review, the ADVS Department restructured the BS degree program in Spring 2007. The majors for the department were organized into a single BS degree in Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences. However, the minors were not adjusted when the major was approved.

The changes to the ADVS minors are needed to align with the major and emphases. Also, the evolution of the animal science production industries has demanded greater cross-disciplinary programs. Currently, the minors represent discipline isolation. The adjustment of the existing four minors into two broader minors provides for better hybridization. By combining Horse Production and Horse Training, and changing the terminology to Equine (“equine,” rather than “horse,” is the correct terminology now), the minor provides a streamlined pathway to horse science specialization. And by combining General Animal Science and General Dairy Science, the minor will bring together like-disciplines to share resources and expertise.

Institutional Impact: The proposed restructuring of the minors in ADVS should not affect enrollments in instructional programs of affiliated departments or programs at USU. The ADVS Department does not predict or expect a statistically significant increase or decrease in undergraduate enrollment. There is nothing “new” or seemingly different to bring in or to discourage enrollment.

The existing administrative structures with be impacted. Advising will be more direct and coherent. For example, the confusion between a Horse Production and a Horse Training minor will be eliminated. No new teaching faculty or teaching facilities will be required. Existing faculty and facilities are sufficient to implement to the proposed change to the minors in ADVS.

Finances: No costs are anticipated for the requested change. The courses required for the new minors are currently offered. There will be no budgetary impact, including cost savings, to other programs or units.