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Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, March 30, 2012 – Master of Science in International Food and Agribusiness

Utah State University

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Regents

State Board of Regents Meeting
 Salt Lake Community College
 Miller Campus, Sandy, Utah
 Miller Free Enterprise Center (MFEC)
 March 30, 2012

AGENDA

(Amended 3/29/2012)

7:30 - 8:50 a.m.

**BREAKFAST MEETING – STATE BOARD OF REGENTS, SLCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
 PRESIDENT BIOTEAU, COMMISSIONER SEDERBURG**
(Culinary Arts Building (CART) 116AB)

8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast
(MFEC 203)

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(MFEC 203)

1. Commissioner's Report
2. Report of the 2012 Legislative Session [TAB A](#)
3. Policy Revision of R120, Bylaws of the State Board of Regents [TAB B](#)
4. Policy Revision of R141, Functions of the Commissioner of Higher Education [TAB C](#)
5. Annual 2011 Faculty Discipline Majors' Meetings – Report [TAB D](#)
6. University of Utah – Campus Technology Plan [TAB E](#)

10:30 a.m.

Refreshment Break
(MFEC 203)

10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

MEETINGS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

PROGRAMS/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Regent John H. Zenger, Chair

Location: MFEC 206

ACTION:

1. University of Utah – Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Peace and Conflict Studies [TAB F](#)
2. University of Utah – Doctor of Philosophy in Occupational and Environmental Health with Emphases [TAB G](#)
3. Utah State University – Bachelor of Arts in Art History [TAB H](#)
4. Utah State University – Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics [TAB I](#)
5. Utah State University – Master of Science in International Food and Agribusiness [TAB J](#)
6. Snow College – Associate of Applied Science in Natural Resources [TAB K](#)
7. Salt Lake Community College – Associate of Applied Science Degree in American Sign Language (ASL)/English Interpreting [TAB L](#)
8. Salt Lake Community College – Associate of Applied Science in Media Music [TAB M](#)
9. Salt Lake Community College – Associate of Applied Science in Music Recording Technology [TAB N](#)
10. Award Amounts for New Century and Regents' Scholarship Awards 2012-13 [TAB O](#)
11. Policy Revisions to Policy R604, New Century Scholarship [TAB P](#)
12. 2011 Report of the HigherEdUtah2020 Plan [TAB Q](#)

INFORMATION:

1. Symposium: Jobs for Utah's Future [TAB R](#)

FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE
Regent Nolan E. Karras, Chair
Location: MFEC 223

ACTION:

1. UHEAA – Gateway Office Building Refinance [TAB S](#)
2. Proposed Revisions to Policy R512, Determination of Resident Status [TAB T](#)
3. Utah State University – Tooele Regional Campus (TRC) Property Purchases and Ground Lease Approval [TAB U](#)
4. Utah State University – Property Transfer [TAB V](#)
5. Presidential Commitments [TAB W](#)

INFORMATION:

1. Salt Lake Community College – Campus Master Plan Progress Report [TAB X](#)
2. USHE – Capital Facilities Update [TAB Y](#)
3. S.B. 153 S2 State Procurement Code Amendments [TAB Z](#)
4. USHE – Annual Money Management Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011 [TAB AA](#)
5. USHE – Spring Enrollment Report [TAB BB](#)
6. Update of Institutional Audit Reports to the Regents' Audit Committee [TAB CC](#)
7. USHE – Report of Auxiliary Funds [TAB DD](#)
8. USHE – Annual Report of Institutional Revenue Bonded Indebtedness [TAB EE](#)
9. USHE – Annual Contract and Grant Report [TAB FF](#)

12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH
(MFEC Showroom)

1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

State of the College - President Bioteau
(MFEC 203)

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(MFEC 203)

1. Reports of Board Committees
2. General Consent Calendar [TAB GG](#)
3. Legislative Update: Budget Summary [TAB HH](#)
4. USHE – Tuition Increases for 2012-2013 (1st- and 2nd- tier) [TAB II](#)
5. USHE – Proposed Fee Increases for 2012-2013 [TAB JJ](#)
6. Resolution
7. Report of the Chair

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (CLOSED MEETING - STATE BOARD OF REGENTS)
(MFEC 206)

Projected times for the various meetings are estimates only. The Board Chair retains the right to take action at any time. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify ADA Coordinator, 60 South 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84180 (801-321-7124), at least three working days prior to the meeting. TDD # 801-321-7130.

March 21, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: William A. Sederburg

SUBJECT: Utah State University – Master of Science in International Food and Agribusiness

Issue

Utah State University (USU) requests approval to offer a Master of Science Degree in International Food and Agribusiness (MS-IFAB) effective Fall Semester, 2012. The program was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on January 6, 2012.

Background

Utah State University developed a graduate student exchange relationship with the Royal Agricultural College in 1999 as part of a joint U.S. Department of Education and European Union program funded through a Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) grant. Participating students were to spend the fall semester at a United States institution then relocate to the United Kingdom for the spring semester at the Royal Agricultural College (RAC), returning to their home institution afterwards to write a thesis. According to the FIPSE guidelines, students completing the program were to receive a degree called "International Food and Agribusiness MBA" (commonly called the IMBA). Due to accreditation requirements of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and perceived competition with the MBA degree offered by the USU School of Business, USU never granted the IMBA degree. Instead, participating students—both domestic and international—received the IMBA from the RAC. This program and its proposed structure will enable students to receive a graduate degree in international agriculture from USU.

The IMBA is a terminal degree. The program will be administered by the Department of Applied Economics (APEC) and will use existing courses. Faculty in the APEC department collaborated with faculty in the USU business school to offer the program through the USU College of Agriculture. The degree focuses on the global competitive environment in food production and agribusiness. The program is designed to give students an understanding of U.S. agricultural policy, production, pricing and supply chain distribution, and statistical methods of analyses. The program includes a semester at the RAC where students have an opportunity to interact with agribusiness students from every continent of the world. While at the RAC, students will study financial management, strategic decision-making, and the agricultural supply chain within the context of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union.

Policy Issues

Other Utah System of Higher Education institutions have reviewed this proposal, given input, and are supportive of Utah State University offering this degree.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Regents approve the request to offer a Master of Science in International Food and Agribusiness, effective Fall Semester 2012.

William A. Sederburg
Commissioner of Higher Education

WAS/BKC
Attachment

Programs and Planning Committee

Action Item

Request to Offer a Master of Science in International Food and Agribusiness

Utah State University

Prepared for
William A. Sederburg
By
Blair K. Carruth

March 21, 2012

Program Description
Utah State University
MS in International Food and Agribusiness

Section I: The Request

Utah State University (USU) requests approval to offer a Master of Science Degree in International Food and Agribusiness (MS-IFAB) effective Fall Semester, 2012. The program was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on January 6, 2012.

Section II: Program Description

Complete Program Description

The Master of Science in International Food and Agribusiness is a terminal degree. The program will be administered by the Department of Applied Economics (APEC) and will use existing courses. The degree focuses on the global competitive environment in food production and agribusiness. The program is designed to give students an understanding of U.S. agricultural policy, production, pricing and supply chain distribution, and statistical methods of analyses. The program includes a semester at the Royal Agricultural College (RAC) located at Cirencester, U.K., where students interact with agribusiness students from every continent of the world. While at the RAC, students will study financial management, strategic decision-making, and the agricultural supply chain within the context of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union.

Role and Mission Fit

As the state's Land Grant institution, Utah State University's mission includes research and graduate education in areas including agriculture, engineering, and the sciences. The proposed MS in International Food and Agribusiness degree advances the core values of the institution by providing students opportunities for learning and discovery in world food production and markets, as well as individual development. The degree complements APEC's undergraduate degree programs in Agribusiness, International Agribusiness, and Agricultural Economics, as well as APEC's on-going student exchange program with the RAC. The proposed degree fits well within USU's historical teaching, research, and outreach mission to those in the agricultural industry. The MS-IFAB degree is also consistent with the research mission of APEC and the USU College of Agriculture.

Purpose of Degree

USU's graduate student exchange relationship with the Royal Agricultural College began in 1999 as part of a joint U.S. Department of Education-European Union program entitled Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE). Four U.S. institutions were involved (the others were Arizona State, Clemson, and the University of Kentucky). Participating students were to spend the fall semester at a US institution and then relocate to the U.K. for the spring semester at the RAC, returning to a home institution to write a thesis. According to the FIPSE guidelines, students completing the program were to receive a degree called International Food and Agribusiness MBA (commonly called the IMBA). Due to accreditation requirements of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and perceived competition for USU's College of Business MBA, USU never granted the IMBA degree. Instead, participating students—both domestic and international—received the IMBA from the RAC.

Since the beginning of its exchange program with USU in 1999, over 60 students have participated in the USU portion of the program, about half from the United States and half from Europe, South America, and Africa. The popularity of the program has been sustained despite the fact that the initial FIPSE grant expired several years ago. Whereas the other U.S. institutions no longer participate in the exchange program in any meaningful way, USU has enjoyed a steady stream of students from Utah, other western states, and abroad.

Perhaps the most important factor for continued participation in the program has been the subsequent professional success of students. Domestic graduates from the program have gone on to successful careers with organizations such as the Iowa Farm Bureau, Western Ag Credit, Innovar, Pfizer, Glanbia, and Zion's Bank; at least two have gone to law school. The very first student from USU to participate as an exchange student at the RAC is now Vice-President for Rabo Agrifinance and Rabobank International.

This proposal has been vetted by the USU Huntsman School of Business which is supportive of the program.

Institutional Readiness

APEC currently offers three graduate degrees: an MS in Applied Economics; an MS in Economics and Statistics (jointly administered with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics); and a PhD in Economics. The proposed MS in International Food and Agribusiness will require no new courses. Of the five core (required) courses in the new degree, APEC will staff four courses, the Department of Management will offer one, and nine credits will come from courses taken at the Royal Agricultural College. Because the degree has run successfully through the joint partnership with the RAC, USU has everything in place to implement the program.

Faculty

The Department of Applied Economics includes 11 faculty members who are tenured or on tenure-track, and one extension specialist holding an MS degree. Four faculty members have been hired since 2009. All faculty members holding the PhD degree teach one or more graduate level courses and/or supervise theses or dissertations. Five faculty members will be responsible for handling the core curriculum of the proposed degree. Other faculty members in the APEC Department may choose to be involved in the supervision of theses and projects.

Staff

A slight increase in the number of students in the MS-IFAB degree is anticipated. Students will be advised and mentored by existing APEC faculty and therefore, no additional staff will be required.

Library and Information Resources

No additional library resources are necessary to support the degree. APEC will continue to operate a small computer lab for the benefit of graduate students in APEC. Graduate students and faculty may also use Utah State University's High Performance Computing facility for computationally intensive projects.

Admission Requirements

The admission requirements will be consistent with the existing requirements of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). Students who have a posted IMBA from RAC, earned under USU's partnership program, will not be eligible for the MS-IFAB. Admission will require a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (4.0 = A) for the last 60 semester credits earned prior to applying for the program. The Graduate Record

Examination (GRE) will be required, and the School of Graduate Studies requirements will be applied for the GRE to include scores at or above the 40th percentile in the quantitative and verbal sections of the exam. Per USU admissions policy, a minimum TOEFL score will be required of all students whose native language is not English.

Specific educational attainment will be required, including bachelors level (or above) courses in an economics or business related discipline. A student whose prior academic performance warrants admission, although some prerequisite courses have not been taken, may be admitted provisionally, or be required to complete all or some of the Huntsman School of Business Accelerated Business Curriculum to gain admission. As stated on the Huntsman School webpage:

The Accelerated Business Core (ABC) at Utah State University is an intensive, one-semester (summer) course of study specially designed for non-business undergraduate degree holders who wish to pursue graduate degrees in business. The ABC provides an exposure to the core business functional areas to build an understanding of the context in which business decisions are made. Passing the ABC will satisfy most prerequisite business course requirements to begin advanced study in various graduate business programs (MBA, MSHR, IMBA, etc.)

APEC plans to continue its graduate student exchange relationship with the RAC. Students who wish to receive a degree from USU must apply directly to the Utah State University School of Graduate Studies. Students wishing to receive a degree from the RAC will be directed to apply through that institution and come to USU as an exchange student.

Student Advisement

APEC has a designated Graduate Program Director, elected according to faculty bylaws. In recent years the compensation for this departmental service has been a one course reduction in assigned teaching load. The graduate director will chair a Graduate Education and Research Committee composed of members appointed by the APEC department head. The committee will be responsible for admissions decisions. The Graduate Program Director, in consultation with a student's major professor, will be responsible for student advising. If a major professor has not yet been selected at the time of admission, advisement responsibility for the student will be assigned to the Director. The proposed degree will require no additional resources for student advisement.

Justification for Graduation Standards and Number of Credits

The MS-IFAB will be offered as a Plan A (24 credit hours of academic course work and six credit hours of research credits) or a Plan B (27 hours coursework and three hours research) program. Demonstration of analytical thinking and effective communication is essential in a globally competitive market, thus Plan C degrees (coursework only) will not be awarded. Appendix A provides the curricula of the current and proposed master's degrees. Per SGS standards, the minimum overall GPA for successful completion of the degree will be 3.0.

External Review and Accreditation

The discipline of Economics and its fields, including Agribusiness, has no accrediting body.

Modules offered at the RAC are subject to validation by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in the U.K.. The RAC benchmarks are assessed according to Type 2 Master's degrees for Business and Management. Such programs are:

... designed to develop master's level knowledge and skills in business and management subjects to enhance the utility and employability of the first discipline. They aim to prepare individuals for employment either related to their first degree discipline or in a management role and may be linked to professional institute qualifications. In both cases, graduates will develop a sound understanding of business/organisational contexts and thus should be able to make an early and significant contribution to their employer.¹

Projected Enrollment

	Student Headcount	Student-Faculty Ratio*
2011-12	6	10
2012-13	Year	10
2013-14	6	10
2014-15	6	10
2015-16	6	10

* Note: The proposed degree will be offered using existing courses in the MS-Applied Economics curriculum. The average student faculty ratio for the Department of Applied Economics for basic graduate instruction is 10:1.

Expansion of Existing Program

The proposed degree does not represent an expansion of current programs.

Section III: Need

Program Need

The proposed Master of Science in International Food and Agribusiness will serve as a terminal degree. According to a recent survey of food production and global food needs by the Economist (February 24, 2011), the world's population is expected to grow by 2 billion, to 9 billion people by the year 2050. The survey expresses great confidence that while technically possible to produce enough food to serve 9 billion people, improvements cannot be solely technological in nature. "[A] big part of the answer...is to shift agricultural policy from inefficient subsidies and perverse price distortions to improved pricing, distribution and management of food that minimizes waste and eliminates trade barriers." The policy, pricing, and logistical solutions outlined in the Economist fall within the purview of the future graduates of this program.

Labor Market Demand

Graduates from the proposed MS-IFAB are expected to have similar employment prospects as those from the existing IMBA. These prospects include employment in sales positions with large pharmaceutical firms, positions in agricultural finance, agricultural product sales and logistics for large international companies, and other related employment. The *Utah Occupational Projections 2008 - 2018* published by the Utah Department of Workforce Services does not distinguish agricultural positions with program-related occupational categories but the following statewide information from that source is helpful in gaining a sense of employment prospects for program graduates.

¹ <http://www.gaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/BusinessManagementMasters.pdf>

SOC Code	Occupation	Average Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	Total Annual Openings	Median Hourly Wage
11-3031	Financial Managers	1.7	160	\$41.90
41-4011	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and Scientific Products	2.0	220	\$31.50
13-2072	Loan Officer	2.3	190	\$23.30

Student Demand

Since the beginning of its exchange program with USU in 1999, over 60 students have participated in the USU portion of the program, about half from the United States and half from Europe, South America, and Africa. The popularity of the program has been sustained since the FIPSE grant expired several years ago with USU receiving a steady stream of students from Utah, other western states, and abroad.

A small but steady student demand is anticipated for the proposed program. In recent years the RAC exchange program has averaged about 5-6 students per year. The MS-IFAB degree from USU may result in a modest increase in these numbers. All of the required USU courses in the MS-IFAB degree are required in other degree programs of APEC or within the Huntsman School of Business, so students from the MS-IFAB will take courses already offered to students pursuing other USU degrees.

Similar Programs

The only institution in the Intermountain Region with a similar program is Arizona State University, an original signatory to the FIPSE grant in the late 1990s. ASU no longer supports this program and, in recent years, has sent interested students to USU.

Benefits

The proposed degree allows APEC and USU to graduate students for whom it is already expending faculty resources, while maintaining a close collaborative relationship with an important European partner. Students who have graduated from the current exchange program with the RAC have been highly successful and remain loyal to USU, yet have no official connection to USU. The proposed degree appropriately acknowledges faculty effort and student success.

Collaboration With and Impact on other USHE Institutions

No other program is similar to the MS-IFAB is offered at any USHE institution.

Section IV: Program and Student Assessment

Program Assessment

The proposed master's program is designed as a terminal degree. Students who successfully complete the degree will be prepared to assume management and sales positions at various levels of the agricultural production, processing, and distribution chain. Per current departmental standards records will be kept of all graduates and first employment. To the degree possible, departmental and College of Agriculture personnel will track the career success of program graduates.

Expected Standards of Performance

Students will be expected to satisfy standards set by the School of Graduate Studies. The minimum overall GPA will be 3.0.

Section V: Finance

Budget

The current request represents a program that requires no new courses. Thus, the APEC Department has already allocated the teaching FTE necessary to meet student numbers associated with the MS-IFAB. Selected students will be funded through research assistantships using research allocations from the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and external grant funding. Total Utah Agricultural Experiment Station funding for APEC graduate students in AY 2010-11 was just under \$150,000; MS-IFAB affiliated faculty (Appendix C) generated over \$750,000 in new grants and contract during calendar year 2010.

All figures and footnotes in the financial analysis form have been calculated and written by the Utah State University Budget and Planning Office. One graduate student FTE is ten credit hours per semester.

Five-Year Budget Projection					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Students					
Projected FTE Enrollment	9	9	9	9	9
Cost per FTE ¹	17,392	17,392	17,392	17,392	17,392
Student/Faculty Ratio ²	10	10	10	10	10
Projected Headcount ³	6	6	6	6	6
Projected Tuition					
Gross Tuition ⁴	27,249	28,339	29,472	30,651	31,877
Tuition to Program					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Expense					
Salaries and Wages					
Benefits					
Total Personnel	N/A - All costs are currently covered in existing programs. There are no additional faculty or staff FTE, Library, or other operational funds required.				
Current Expense					
Travel					
Capital					
Library Expense					
Total Expense					
Revenue					
Legislative Appropriation					
Grants and Contracts					
Donations	N/A - funded through existing resources				
Reallocation					
Tuition to Program					
Fees					
Total Revenue	0	0	0	0	0
Difference					
Revenue – Expenses	0	0	0	0	0

Budget Comments

1. Represents the 2009-10 E&G cost of Basic Graduate instruction in the Department of Applied Economics divided by the 2009-10 AY Basic Graduate Student FTE in Applied Economics plus projected enrollment noted. Source: 2010 Department Profiles.
2. Represents the 2009-10 AY Basic Graduate Student FTE in the Department of Applied Economics plus the projected enrollment noted divided by the 2009-10 AY E&G Applied Economics FTE faculty. Source: 2010 Department Profiles.
3. The projected number of students in the program each year.
4. The gross tuition generated by the projected headcount enrollment at 15 graduate credit hours for one semester. The figures use the 2011-12 tuition schedule and assume 75% resident and 25% non-resident. Assumed 4% growth in tuition rate each year.

Funding Sources

The proposal requires no new courses, and will rely upon already allocated E&G funding resources, as well as resources associated with the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, grants, and contracts.

Reallocation

The proposal does not require any reallocation of existing resources within the department.

Impact on Existing Budgets

All courses required by this program are currently offered and taught at USU. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact on existing budgets.

Section VI: Program Curriculum

All Program Courses

Curriculum for Masters of Science in International Food and Agribusiness

Course Prefix and Number	Title	Credit Hours
<i>Core Courses at USU</i>		
MGT 4590	Global Market Strategy	3
APEC 5015	Firm Mgmt, Planning and Organization.	3
APEC 6030	Agricultural Marketing	3
APEC 6040	Agribusiness Production & Supply Chain Mgmt	3
APEC 6330	Econometrics	3
<i>Courses at the Royal Agricultural College</i>		
Module 4061	Business Economics	1.5
Module 4066	Financial Mgmt	2
Module 4067	Business Strategy	2
Module 4079	Food Chain	1.5
Module 4092	Personal and Organizational Change	2
Total		24

- Plan A (30 credits total)
 - Six thesis credits, 24 hours required coursework
- Plan B (30 hours total)
 - Three thesis credits, 24 hours required coursework, three hours elective coursework

Potential elective courses

APEC 6300	Quantitative Analysis for Business and Policy Decisions
APEC 6500	Intro to Natural Resource Economics
APEC 6510	Intro to Environmental Economics
APEC 6700	Regional and Community Economic Development
APEC 6710	Community Planning and Impact Analysis

New Courses to Be Added in the Next Five Years

No new courses will be required or are planned for the next five years.

Program Schedule*Required Courses*

Fall Semester (15 credits)		
MGT 4590	Global Market Strategy	3
APEC 5015	Firm Mgmt, Planning and Organization.	3
APEC 6030	Agricultural Marketing	3
APEC 6040	Agribusiness Production & Supply Chain Mgmt	3
APEC 6330	Econometrics	3
Spring Term at Royal Agricultural College (9 credits)		
Module 4061	Business Economics	1.5
Module 4066	Financial Mgmt	2
Module 4067	Business Strategy	2
Module 4079	Food Chain	1.5
Module 4092	Personal and Organizational Change	2
Elective Courses		
APEC 6300	Quantitative Analysis for Business and Policy Decisions	
APEC 6500	Intro to Natural Resource Economics	
APEC 6510	Intro to Environmental Economics	
APEC 6700	Regional and Community Economic Development	
APEC 6710	Community Planning and Impact Analysis	

Section VII: Faculty

Name	Degree/Institution	Field(s) of Expertise
<i>Applied Economics Faculty - MS-IFAB Program</i>		
DeeVon Bailey	PhD, Texas A&M University	Agricultural Marketing
Kynda Curtis	PhD, Washington State University	Agricultural Marketing and Consumer Economics
Dillon Feuz	PhD, Colorado State University	Agricultural Marketing and Production
Don Snyder	PhD, Utah State University	Agricultural Production
Ruby Ward	PhD, Texas A&M University	Value-added Agriculture, Community Development