Revision Of Undergraduate And Graduate Programs

Format For Review By University Curriculum Committee (UCC) and Graduate Council.

1. Proposing College / School: Agriculture
   Department: Agronomy and Soils

2. Title of Affected Program: Agronomy & Soils Distance Education

3. CIP Code of Affected Program: 

   (If applicable)

4. Proposed Implementation Date: 05/19/2011

5. Justification:

   (Include a concise, yet adequate rationale for the revision of the program, citing accreditation, assessments (faculty, graduate, and/or external) where applicable.)

   Agronomy and Soils distance education courses are designed to serve non-traditional students who cannot come to campus to attend classes and therefore benefit from taking these courses by distance education. However, we are finding a larger than expected number of campus students enrolling in our distance education courses. Our intent is for campus students to take classes on campus. We recognize that distance education courses may benefit some campus students in order to resolve course conflicts or to enable a student to graduate on time by taking a distance course that is offered at a time that the campus course is not available. By making these courses available by permission, it will allow us to limit the distance education courses to the target off-campus students and to those campus students who have justifiable reasons to take the course.

6. Current Degree Requirements (Including All Formal Options):

   (Provide the current curriculum model for the program, as well as for each formal option.)

   We currently do not have a distance education undergraduate degree program.

7. Proposed Degree Requirements (Including All Formal Options):

   (Provide the proposed curriculum model for the program, as well as for each formal option.)

   N/A

8. New Courses Required:

   (Indicate which courses -- if any -- are part of the curriculum that are not currently offered.)

   N/A - we currently do not have an undergraduate distance education curriculum.

9. Relationship of Proposed Program to Other Auburn University Programs:

   (If the proposed program revision affects any other unit and/or covers material offered by another college/school, attach correspondence with relevant unit.)

   Will the program revision affect other program(s) and/or units at Auburn University? ○ Yes ○ No

   Will the program revision replace any existing program(s), or specializations / options / concentrations within existing program(s) at Auburn University? ○ Yes ○ No
10. New or Additional Resources / Resource Shifting Required:
(If "yes" for any item, please provide explanation in the space provided below.)

- Will additional faculty lines be required? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Will new or additional space (e.g.: laboratory or classroom) be required? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Will additional library resources be required? [ ] Yes [ ] No
- Will additional GTA support be required? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Explanation of or provision for new or additional resources / explanation of program's support or replacement of other programs:

11. Distance Education:
(If Distance Education will be incorporated in the delivery of the proposed program, provide details of implementation, scope, etc.)

These distance education courses are taught asynchronously using the Blackboard Vista course management system. A variety of media are used to deliver course content, including narrated Powerpoint lectures using Camtasia or CourseCast, video recordings, documents, web links and text books, etc.
March 29, 2011

To: Dr. Joe Touchton, Head

From: Dennis Shannon, Professor & Distance Education Coordinator

Subject: Request to Change Prerequisites for Undergraduate Distance Education Courses

This is to request a change in the prerequisites of undergraduate distance education courses in Agronomy and Soils to make enrollment by permission. The reason for this change is that our distance education courses are designed to serve non-traditional students who cannot come to campus to attend classes and therefore benefit from taking these courses by distance education. However, we are finding a larger than expected number of campus students enrolling in our distance education courses. Our intent is for campus students to take classes on campus. We recognize that distance education courses may benefit some campus students in order to resolve course conflicts or to enable a student to graduate on time by taking a distance course that is offered at a time that the campus course is not available. By making these courses available by permission, it will allow us to limit the distance education courses to the target off-campus students and to those campus students who have justifiable reasons to take the course.

The courses for which we are requesting this policy are the following, as well as any other undergraduate distance education courses that will be developed in the future:

- AGRN 1003  Basic Crop Science
- AGRN 2043  Basic Soil Science
- AGRN 3123  Principles of Weed Science (in development)
- AGRN 3153  Turfgrass Management
- AGRN 5063  Soil Microbiology
- AGRN 5061  Soil Microbiology Lab (section scheduled for distance education students)
- AGRN 5083  Soil Resources and Conservation
- AGRN 5103  Plant Genetics and Crop Improvement
- AGRN 5303  Soil Chemistry
- AGRN 5403  Bioenergy and the Environment