

From: [Vincent, Leslie H.](#)
To: [Brothers, Sheila C.](#); [Ett-Mims, Joanie](#)
Cc: [Cramer, Aaron M.](#); [Woolery, Stephanie L.](#); [Unrine, Jason M.](#)
Subject: Proposed Significant Change to MS Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 4:39:09 PM

Sheila,

The following proposal is ready for review at Senate Council.

Proposed Significant Change to MS Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences

This is a recommendation that the University Senate approve, for submission to the Board of Trustees, a change to the MS in Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences in the College of Ag, Food, and Environment.

Rationale:

This significant program change includes the addition of a new track for Environmental Science and Ecosystem Ecology to the MS in Integrated Plant and Soil Science (IPSS). Creating an MS specialty area within the IPSS program in Environmental Sciences and Ecosystem Ecology (ESEE) would provide students with training focused on soil and water quality issues related to nutrients and contaminants as well as an understanding of water, energy and biogeochemical cycles and ecosystem services in natural and managed ecosystems, including agroecosystems and managed forests and grasslands. The ESEE track is well aligned with the research expertise of the faculty within IPSS. This new track will include 7 core courses and students are required to complete 24 credit hours (thesis option) or 30 credit hours (non-thesis option). The ESEE specialty area will prepare students for work as researchers in basic environmental science and ecosystem ecology at universities, NGOs, government agencies and other research entities. Students will also be prepared for jobs in regulatory and other government agencies that deal with soil and water quality as well as jobs within consulting firms and industries involved with environmental regulatory compliance.

Best,
Leslie

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