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| **From:** | Vincent, Leslie H. |
| **To:** | Brothers, Sheila C.; Ett-Mims, Joanie |
| **Cc:** | Woolery, Stephanie L.; Cramer, Aaron M.; Unrine, Jason M. |
| **Subject:** | Proposed Significant Change to PhD Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences |
| **Date:** | Thursday, November 12, 2020 4:39:49 PM |

Sheila,

The following proposal is ready for review at Senate Council.

**Proposed Significant Change to PhD 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 PhD 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 two separate changes: the discontinuation of the Forest Science track and the addition of a new track for Environmental Science and Ecosystem Ecology (ESEE) to the PhD in Integrated Plant and Soil Science (IPSS). In 2018, the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, which participates in the Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences graduate program (IPSS), began a new doctoral program in Forests and Natural Resource Science (FNRS). The discontinuation of the Forest Science track and addition of the ESEE track will make UK's overall graduate offerings clearer to potential students, avoid overlap between the programs, and address a longstanding need within the IPSS program. Creating a specialty area 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. Furthermore, the addition of this new track creates a specialty option that better aligns with the research for graduate students working with these faculty in the areas of ESEE. This 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 involved with environmental regulatory compliance.


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