October 23, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: John A. Elliott, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: New Associate of Applied Science major in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture in the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a new Associate of Applied Science major in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture in the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture.

BACKGROUND:

This resolution will create a new Associate of Applied Science major, ‘Urban Forestry and Arboriculture,’ within the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture, administered within the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Urban and roadside tree work is booming business in the eastern United States, and the Connecticut Tree Protective Association approached the Natural Resources Department about workforce needs, particularly around employees that can grow with and within their membership companies, which includes small business owners up to large regional firms, and utility companies. The Associate of Applied Science degree offered by the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture is uniquely positioned to graduate persons with the needed vocational skills, but also with a broader college education granting perspectives and professional expectations that can meet the workforce needs present in the industry. Work 15 feet or greater off the ground in Connecticut requires holding an arborist license issued by exam. The major described here would prepare students to sit for the exam, but will also prepare them for a larger career trajectory, including required course on accounting and business management, environmental literacy and general education courses that convey the broader goals of citizenship and a person’s place in society and the world.

This new major will require modest resources, as it leverages existing courses already offered within the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture, and only proposes four new courses (which have already been created). Two of the new courses will be adjunct taught, and the Connecticut Tree Protective Association has agreed to donate through the UConn Foundation the funds to cover stipends through the first 4-5 years, while working to fundraise and create an endowment to secure adjunct stipends in perpetuity.
Request for New/Modified UConn Academic Degree Program or Name Change

General Information

Name of proposed academic degree program (If solely a Name Change, indicate old and new names):

Urban Forestry and Arboriculture
(new major proposed for addition to the Associate of Applied Science Degree in the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture)

Name of sponsoring Department(s): NRE

Name of sponsoring School(s) and/or College(s): CAHNR, RHSA

Campuses (Storrs and/or regional[s]) proposed to offer this degree program: Storrs

Contact person and contact details: Jason Vokoun, Professor and Head, NRE jason.vokoun@uconn.edu

Type of Proposal (New/Modified/Name Change/Discontinuation): NEW

Type of Program (B.A./B.S./M.S./Ph.D./Certificate, ETC): new major in AAS degree program

Anticipated Initiation Date: Fall 2020 Anticipated Date of First Graduation: May 2022

CIP Code: 03.0508 DHE Code (if available):

Submittal Information

Name of Department Head(s): Jason Vokoun

Department(s): NRE

Signature of Department Head(s): [Signature]

Date: 6/23/19

Name of Dean: Indrajeet Chaubey/Sandra Bushmich

School/College: RHSA/CAHNR

Signature of Dean: [Signature]

Date: [Signature]
Please include the following applicable documents upon delivery to Provost’s Office:
Course and Curriculum Committee Minutes (One set for all involved departments)
Undergraduate Program Review Committee Minutes (Undergrad Only)
Graduate Faculty Council Executive Committee Minutes (Grad Only; not for the Law School)
Board of Trustees Resolution (Template available on Provost’s website)

The Provost’s Office will submit the proposal to the Council of Deans, the Board of Trustees, the Advisory Committee on Accreditation (if necessary), and the Board of Regents.

Program Proposal Instructions

Please populate the following fields with all applicable information for your proposed program, modification, or discontinuation. The information below will be shared with the Council of Deans, the Board of Trustees, the Connecticut Board of Regents and the Advisory Committee in Accreditation (if necessary). If you have any questions, please contact the Provost’s Office.

Please submit the Program Proposal in WORD format.

Further instructions are available here: http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=1024
CONSENT CALENDAR

Institution: University of Connecticut

Item: New AAS major in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture

Date:

Background & Description

This proposal would create a new Associate of Applied Science major entitled ‘Urban Forestry and Arboriculture’ within the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture administered within the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Urban and roadside tree work is booming business in the eastern United States, and the Connecticut Tree Protective Association approached the Natural Resources Department about workforce needs particularly around employees that can grow with and within their membership companies, which includes small business owners up to large regional firms, and utility companies. The Associate of Applied Science degree offered by the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture is uniquely positioned to graduate persons with the needed vocational skills, but also with a broader college education granting perspectives and professional expectations that can meet the workforce needs present in the industry. Work 15 feet or greater off the ground in Connecticut requires holding an arborist license issued by exam. The major described here would prepare students to sit for the exam, but also prepare them for a larger career trajectory, including required courses on accounting and business management, environmental literacy and general education courses that convey the broader goals of citizenship and a person’s place in society and the world.

Reasons for the Proposed Program/Modification/Discontinuation

The primary motivation is to provide training and education to meet workforce needs in the urban tree care and removal industry.

Curriculum & Program Outline

- Students must pass all required courses, adhere to registration requirements and restrictions of RHSA, and earn:
  - At least 60 credits toward the degree
  - At least 40 credits of UConn RHSA courses (No more than 20 credits of 1000 level coursework, including courses listed in Part I, may be used toward the AAS degree, unless approved by the Director).*
*Note: Transfer students may be eligible for an exception; contact RHSA Director.
At least a 2.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)

- No more than 6 credits of Independent Study, Internships and Special topics may be applied toward the AAS degree, unless approved by the Director. Courses taken on Pass/Fail may NOT be used to meet any requirements.

**PART I: GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (Same for all AAS majors)**

**Freshman Seminar:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAAG</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Freshman Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*An exemption may be granted based on prior college-level coursework*

**Writing:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL</td>
<td>1004</td>
<td>Introduction to Academic Writing or Seminar in Academic Writing or Seminar in Writing through Literature</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Placement based on SAT scores*

**Mathematics:** (*MATH 10110 or higher)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Placement based on SAT scores and/or placement exam*

**Civic and Community Engagement:**
One of the following: ARE 1110; HIST 1501, 1502; NRE 1235; PP 1001; POLS 1602; URBAN 1300

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Arts and Humanities:**
In addition to the Civic and Community Engagement course, one of the following: ART 1000; DRAM 1101, 1110; FREN 1161, 1162, 1169, 1171, 1177; GEOG/URBN 1200; GERM 1169, 1171; HIST 1201, 1501, 1502; ILCS 1158; MUSI 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004; NRE 1235; PHIL 1101, 1102, 1104; POLS 1002; SAAG 350; SPAN 1001, 1002; WGSS 1104 (Or other 1000-level course approved by the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture Director)
Social Science:
In addition to the Civic and Community Engagement course, one of the following: ANTH 1000, 1006; ARE 1110; COMM 1000; ECON 1000, 1201, 1202; EVST 1000; GEOG 1000, 1700; HDFS 1060, 1070; POLS 1202, 1207, 1402, 1602; PP 1001; PUBH 1001; SARE 450; SLHS 1150; SOCI 1001, 1251, 1501; WGSS 1105 (Or other 1000-level course approved by the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture Director)

*Students may substitute COMM 1100, NUSC 1167, or SPSS 1125 for the Social Sciences requirement.

Computer Technology: Expectations fulfilled by major area requirements.

*No single course can be used to satisfy more than one requirement.
PART II: MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Urban Forestry and Arboriculture: Core Requirements (All of the following)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAPL</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Introduction to Plant Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANR</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>Forest Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANR</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>Dendrology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANR</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Arboriculture</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANR</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPL</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>Plant Pest Control</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARE</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting and Management for the Agribusiness Firm</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART III: AREA OF SPECIALIZATION (FOR ALL MAJORS)

In addition to General Education Requirements and the Major Requirements listed above, students must complete at least 12 credits related to an Area of Specialization within the major. These courses must be Ratcliffe Hicks courses, numbered 100-999, and must be approved by the student’s advisor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART IV: TOTAL UCONN RHSA CREDITS (FOR ALL MAJORS)

Students must complete a minimum of 40 credits from RHSA courses (codes SAAG, SAAS, SAPL, SANR, SAPB, SARE). These courses can also be used in Part II and Part III.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester/Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Learning Outcomes**
1. Students will be able to envision, specify, and carry out safe, effective arboriculture work.
2. Students will be capable of recommending management actions and plans for urban forests and green spaces.
3. Students will be prepared to take the Arborist license exam offered by the CT DEEP.
4. Students will have gained expertise in tree identification, forest ecology, and common tree diseases and pests.
5. Students will have gained a broad perspective on the urban forestry and arboriculture industry and understand potential career trajectories.
Enrollment & Graduation Projections

Our target enrollment by the third year would be 10-15 new students each year, then sustaining 20-30 students in the program over time.

Financial Resources

To offer this new major will require modest resources, as it leverages existing courses already offered within the RHSA, and only proposes four new courses (which have already been created). Of those four new courses, two are to be ‘taught with’ existing BS courses in NRE. The other two new courses will be adjunct taught, and the Connecticut Tree Protective Association has agreed to donate through the UConn Foundation to cover the stipends through the first 4-5 years of the program, while working with NRE to fundraise and create an endowment to secure adjunct stipends in perpetuity. Existing forestry faculty time will be needed to advise the students in the new major. These faculty can absorb the additional advising at the current time.

Facilities/Equipment/Library/Special Resources

NRE maintains teaching equipment used in forestry courses taught in the BS program. These materials will be available for this program and replaced or upgraded as needed. The UConn Forest adjacent to campus, and open treed spaces within campus proper, provide the needed outdoor classroom.

Program Administration

The CAHNR Associate Dean of Academic Programs, currently Dr. Sandra Bushmich, is the Director of the RHSA. The school has its own faculty drawn from the contributing CAHNR departments, and its own courses and curriculum committee, again drawn from the contributing departments. This new major would be administered within this existing structure.

Faculty

The faculty of the RHSA are drawn from the CAHNR departments contributing courses. Robert Fahey and Thomas Worthley would likely become the principle faculty from NRE, as well as department head Jason Vokoun.

Similar Programs in Connecticut or Region

There are no comparable programs in Connecticut. The University of Massachusetts-Amherst has a similar program within its 2-yr school, The Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Associates degrees generally recruit within-state, however, and Connecticut residents are unlikely to pay out-of-state tuition.
Upcoming Dates
CCNR – March 18, 2019
Awards & Honors Event – March 27, 2019
UConn Gives – March 27 & 28, 2019
Deadline to offer fall admission to new Grad Students – April 1, 2019
Graduate Student Research Forum – April 6, 2019
Spignesi Fundraiser- April 27, 2019
Commencement – May 11, 2019
High School Career Development Event — May 17, 2019

Present: Abby Beissinger, Anita Morzillo, Laura Cisneros, Tracy Rittenhouse, Tom Meyer, Jack Clausen, Xiusheng Yang, Gary Robbins, Chad Rittenhouse, Tom Worthley, Bob Fahey, Jason Vokoun, Ashley Sandy, Beth Lawrence.

• Announcements (Jason V.)
  o Awards & Honors - NRE has three recipients at the CAHNR Awards & Honors event: Dr. Anita Morzillo will receive the Kinsman Award for Excellence in Teaching and is part of the group receiving the Innovation in Extension Programming Award, Janet Barclay will receive the PhD Graduate Student Research Award, and Sean Ooi will receive the MS Graduate Student Research Award.
  o UConn Gives - NRE will have two UConn Gives initiatives on March 27th-28th, the Natural Resources Conservation Academy and the David Schroeder scholarship. The Schroeder scholarship will receive a 1:1 match up to $10,000 (resulting in $20,000). The scholarship goes to an outstanding senior that demonstrates a high level of academic involvement and professional development.
  o Fall Admission for Grads - April 1st is the deadline to extend offer letters to graduate students for fall 2019.
  o Caliper - The NRE newsletter is going out to alumni in advance of Giving Day.
  o New Dean - Indrajeeet Chaubey began on March 1st and has a tenure home in NRE. Jason Vokoun sent a high-level overview to the Dean, including the department’s many advantages and concerns over maintaining faculty numbers.
  o Advising Season – Faculty should offer proactive advising and let advisees know it is time to make appointments. With Morty on sabbatical this spring, redirect advisees to Tracy or Jason V. Tracy is on sabbatical next fall and the Fisheries Techniques W is an acceptable substitution for the Wildlife Management Techniques W that will not be offered.
  o Recruitment – Current enrollment is 105-110 and the department will graduate 25-30 seniors in May. A strong spring recruiting season will show growth and the goal is to have at least 90 students enrolled next fall.

• Executive Council/Department Updates (Jason V.)
  o Vehicles for field season – Jason Vokoun is meeting with Stephanie Marks at Facilities to discuss the service plan for vehicles leased through UConn and current vehicles owned by the department. Eventually the NRE vehicle fleet will be smaller and faculty should think about budgeting for an Enterprise rental in upcoming proposals.