January 15, 2021

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2020-2021
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Ex-Officio – Provost S. Jack Hu
Undergraduate Student Representative – Jeremiah de Sesto
Graduate Student Representative – Gerena Walker

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to terminate the major in Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences (M.S.) will be an agenda item for the January 22, 2021, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav
PROPOSAL FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: September 9, 2020

School/College: College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Department/Division: Crop and Soil Sciences

Program (Major and Degree): Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences (M.S.)

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens

Deactivation or Termination? Termination

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2021

Last date students will be admitted to this program: No students are currently enrolled

Last date students will graduate from this program: No students are currently enrolled

Program Abstract:
Faculty from the University of Georgia, Auburn University, Clemson University, University of Kentucky, North Carolina State University, Ohio State University, and Texas Tech University proposed to establish an interdisciplinary graduate (master’s) degree in Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences by distance education. This degree was offered through the AG*IDEA program (Agriculture Interactive Distance Education Alliance, http://www.agidea.org/). The graduate degree program was comprised of required core courses in biology, chemistry, physics, hydrology, and pedology, in addition to electives that provided flexibility to tailor the degree program to meet individual interest and career needs.

1. State the reasons for deactivating or terminating the program and provide copies of any relevant documents.

Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences (M.S.) was created in conjunction through AG*IDEA and multiple institutions, but the program was never launched formally. The program was not advertised, no students enrolled, and the program is not active. Additionally, the degree is no longer offered by AG*IDEA. CRSS faculty voted to terminate this program in March 2018.

2. What will be done to minimize the impact of the deactivation or termination of the program upon the personal and professional lives of the faculty and staff involved? Include specific information on: a) how faculty and staff will be notified of the deactivation or termination, and b) how faculty and staff will be reallocated.

The faculty discussed the inactivity of this program and voted to terminate the program in March 2018. The faculty who planned to teach in this program have either retired or are teaching in other active programs.

3. What will be done to insure that deactivation or termination of the program does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?

Teaching efforts have been allocated to other programs, so the termination of this program will have no effect on other programs.
Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Termination of the Major in Soil, Water, and Environmental Sciences (M.S.)

College: College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Department: Crop and Soil Sciences

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2021

Department:

- Crop and Soil Sciences Department Head, Dr. Janine Sherrier, 9/9/20

School/College:

- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Interim Dean, Dr. Joe West, 9/920

Graduate School:

- Graduate School Dean, Dr. Ron Walcott, 10/14/20