

## **Development of an Undergraduate Major Committee (DUMC)**

March 6, 2019, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, C021 Plant Sciences

### **NOTES**

**Attendees:** Cini, Franck, Frank, Vamsi, Pankaj, Jane, Punya, and Tamla

#### **Update on progress of courses and programs in CIM**

- The proposed courses and program have been rolled back for editing.

#### **Relate discussion of Amy, Franck, Vamsi and Cini with Matt Camper and Chair of CAS AAC, Tiare Santivestian, regarding proposed program and courses**

- Naming the major Agricultural Biology, like the new name of the Department,
  - Would avoid some challenges we are facing with the name Plant Health.
  - Chair of Biology, Mike Antolin, has no problem with Agricultural Biology as a department or major name
  - Dean of Natural Sciences, Jan Nerger, will defer to Mike Antolin
  - New Mexico State (~25,000 students in 2016) has a major called Agricultural Biology with about 50 students that is growing while the enrollment in the university is shrinking.
- Matt Camper has learned that it is possible to propose a new subject code for the proposed courses and that it can be possible to change existing course codes, too. But it will take a long time to do the latter.
  - **Cini** will enquire with Andrea Russo regarding procedure creating new course code and procedures for changing course codes for existing courses.
  - Subject codes must be four letters or fewer.
- The language for AUCC courses continues to evolve. We need to keep checking for updates and asking Brad Goetz because he will be the first to know.
- In this meeting, Vamsi suggested that we create concentrations for the major if we plan to name it Agricultural Biology. He suggests that the breadth of the major makes providing clear pathways for students more important. He also said a concentration is 12 credits and will not be difficult to construct. We discussed having concentrations in entomology, plant pathology, and weed science.
  - Concentrations are on the transcript, not on the diploma
  - Vamsi will work to create these

#### **Revisit the name of the major**

- We reviewed the results of our university and high school student focus groups.
  - CSU Ag Ambassadors were most interested in Food System Protection with Agricultural Biology the second most interesting.
  - Students from the STEM high school were highly interested in Plant and Ecosystem Health and Agricultural Biology. Plant Protection and Food System Protection were the next most interesting to them.
  - Ag-aware high school students were most interested in Food System Protection and second-most interested in Agricultural Biology
- We reviewed the results of the online survey of members of the College of Agricultural Sciences, Biology, and College of Natural Resources
  - The highest rank name overall was Plant and Ecosystem Health.
  - Agricultural Biology was the second most popular name overall

- Agricultural Biology was ranked second by BSPM faculty and by graduate students behind Plant and Ecosystem Health.
- Agricultural Biology was not highly ranked by respondents classified as “Others” and “Non-BSPM”
- Franck presented his analysis of data from the Food and Agricultural Education Information System (<https://www.faeis.cals.vt.edu/index.php/data-file-list/>, see Franck’s report below). It shows that only 4% of the 1 million bachelor degrees awarded from CSU-type universities are related to BSPM disciplines. Of this 4%, 0.1% are in plant protection. The largest number of degrees awarded are in general agriculture (12%) and general biology/biological sciences (14%). He argues that perhaps the name of our major should be more like these larger areas of study to increase our ability to attract more students.
- After discussion, we decided to name the major **Agricultural Biology** and that the new subject code will be **AB** (AGB if two letters not acceptable).

#### Touch base on CPP progress

- Some sections are complete. Some sections have not content. The working document can be found here:
  - Google doc [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13-E-851VhJz86\\_pVw\\_W\\_NBhY8ZlrnFFF?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13-E-851VhJz86_pVw_W_NBhY8ZlrnFFF?usp=sharing)
- Add your work to the google doc, not the Word doc, in this folder.
- **We must complete the sections we are responsible for by the end of spring break (March 24).**

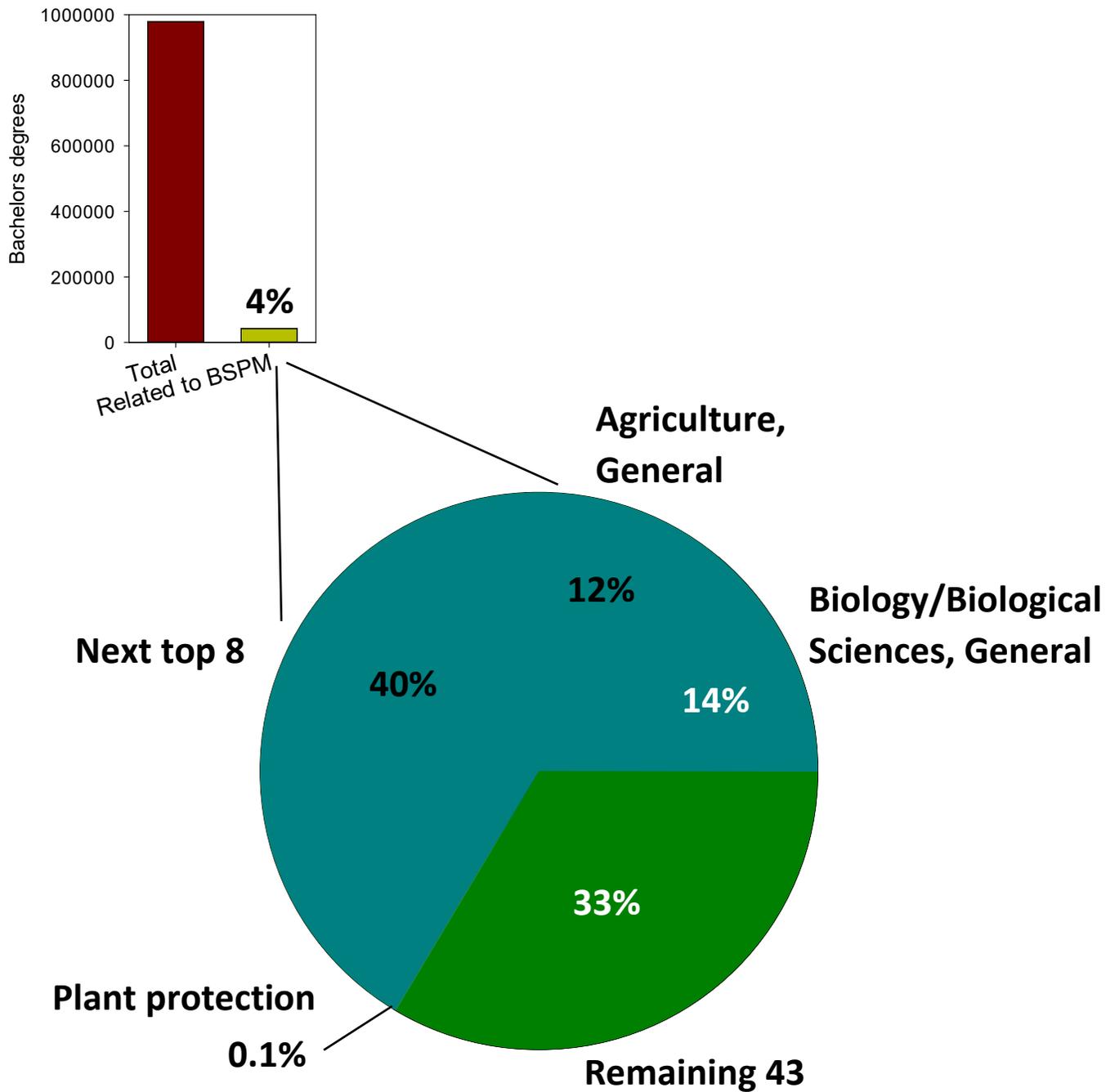
#### DECISIONS

- We would like Amy to talk with Matt Wallenstein to find out what he thinks about Agricultural Biology. He rolled back our courses and major with the name Plant Health saying it wasn’t well enough differentiated from Soil and Crop Sciences’ major.
- The name of the major will be **Agricultural Biology**
- All new courses will use the course code **AB**
- We will **change existing courses** with the BSPM subject code **to AB** over time. This will be addressed after the major is established.
- Concentrations will be:
  - None
  - Plant Health/IPM
  - Entomology
  - Plant Pathology
  - Weed Sciences

#### TASKS

- Roll back proposed program and courses in CIM (Cini – done)
- Identify and complete application for new subject code
- Edit rolled back courses to reflect new subject code and name of major (Vamsi?)
- Amy meet with Matt Wallenstein, chair of SOCR.
- Complete our sections of CPP by March 24 (end of spring break)
- The next DUMC meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 27, 2:00 pm, C021 Plant Sciences**

## Bachelors awarded from CSU-type schools between 2013-2017



## Bachelors degrees awarded in BSPM-related fields

Data from <https://www.faeis.cals.vt.edu/index.php/data-file-list/>

More information on data is found below.

**Table 1. The larger majors in dataset used for figure above**

Human Development and Family Studies, General
Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General
Hospitality Administration/Management, General
Early Childhood Education and Teaching
Family and Community Services
Fashion Merchandising
Animal Sciences, General
Agriculture, General
Agricultural Economics
Parks, Recreation and Leisure Facilities Management
Biology/Biological Sciences, General
Agronomy and Crop Sciences

**Table 2. Degrees related to BSPM**

Biology/Biological Sciences, General
Agriculture, General
Environmental Science
Natural Resources/Conservation, General
Biochemistry
Agronomy and Crop Sciences
Horticultural Science
Forestry, General
Environmental Studies
Plant Sciences, General
Microbiology
Forest Management/Forest Resources Management
Cell/Cellular and Molecular Biology
Biotechnology
Turf and Turfgrass Management

Forest Sciences and Biology

Ecology, Evolution, Systematics and Population Biology,  
Other

Agricultural and Food Products Processing

Soil Science and Agronomy, General

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Environmental Biology

Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture

Entomology

Conservation Biology

Applied Horticulture/Horticultural Operations, General

Landscaping and Groundskeeping

Ecology

Biological/Biosystems Engineering

International Agriculture

Viticulture and Enology

Botany/Plant Biology

Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Other

Plant Sciences, Other

Molecular Biology

Genetics, General

Forest Engineering

Forestry, Other

Urban Forestry

Plant Genetics

Molecular Genetics

Plant Molecular Biology

Forest Resources Production and Management

Biometry/Biometrics

Ornamental Horticulture

Applied Horticulture/Horticultural Business Services, Other

Plant Pathology/Phytopathology

Botany/Plant Biology, Other

Plant Protection and Integrated Pest Management

Soil Sciences, Other

Greenhouse Operations and Management

Crop Production