Approved by the Board of Trustees

March 17, 2022

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Board Meeting

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## ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FOOD SCIENCE, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Science in Food Science, College of Agricultural,

Consumer and Environmental Sciences

**Funding:** No funding impact is expected, as this proposal and the related action and report items do not change class sizes, student-faculty ratios, or other metrics.

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Science in Food Science (B.S. in FS).

The current structure of the undergraduate degree program in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition is a single Bachelor of Science with a major in Food Science and Human Nutrition. Within this B.S. in FSHN, students choose from one of four concentrations: Dietetics, Food Science, Hospitality Management, or Human Nutrition. A recent review of the department’s undergraduate enrollment and curriculum suggested the restructuring that is proposed here and in companion action and report items to dissolve the concentration structure and the major to which these concentrations are tied and to establish four separate B.S. degrees that elevate the existing concentrations. This reorganization is in keeping with current and prospective student demand and is expected to make graduates of the separate B.S. degrees more marketable to employers and graduate programs. Currently enrolled students will be allowed to complete their program of study. The current B.S. in FSHN and the existing concentrations will be moved to phasedown until currently enrolled students graduate, then they will be eliminated.

Specific to this program, many students are interested in acquiring employable skillsets in the science of food to contribute to a safe, nutritious, and sustainable food supply. The proposed B.S. in FS incorporates coursework in chemistry, microbiology, and food processing to provide a comprehensive food science education. By elevating Food Science from a concentration within the B.S. in FSHN to a stand-alone major, the program will be more visible to prospective students, and graduates will be more visible to prospective employers and graduate programs. The current program holds approval from the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT). In 2019, IFT revised their requirements to include 11 Standards and 55 Essential Learning Outcomes. The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition submitted their application to IFT and received initial approval from the IFT Higher Education Review Board (HERB) in December 2019. Per the approval plan, assessment of the program was to take place from fall 2020 to fall 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the due date of the report was postponed to October 2022. Therefore, the department is collecting assessment data this academic year to prepare for the report, and the report will include the plans for the proposed elevation from a concentration to a major.

Little to no impact is expected in terms of funding, instructional resources, or student-to-faculty ratios. The revised undergraduate structure will draw upon the existing courses that comprise the core of the current B.S. in FSHN and the current existing concentrations. No new courses are needed, and existing courses have capacity to enroll the uptick in enrollment the department expects to happen with the elevation of concentrations to majors. No new or additional facilities, significant improvements to existing facilities, or additional resources from the University Library are needed.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Interim Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University of Illinois System recommends approval. This action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.