

Approved by the Board of Trustees
January 21, 2021

Board Meeting
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ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP,
EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL,
CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE
COLLEGE, URBANA

Action: Establish the Master of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College

Funding: This program will replace the existing Master of Science in Agricultural Education, elimination of which is requested in a companion action item. No budgetary implications are anticipated as a result of essentially replacing that existing program with the program described in this proposal.

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 and the Graduate College to establish the Master of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications.

In March 2019, the Board of Trustees approved reorganization of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences' Agricultural Education and Agricultural Communications programs. This action, approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education on May 9, 2019, eliminated the Agricultural Education and Agricultural Communications Programs, replacing them with a program in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications (ALEC). At that time, the reorganization

included elimination of the existing B.S. in Agricultural Education and the B.S. in Agricultural Communications, replacing these degree programs through the establishment of the B.S. in ALEC. This proposal and the companion item to eliminate via phasedown the M.S. in AGED are the next step in this multi-element reorganization process merging the programs in Agricultural Communications (which did not host a graduate degree) and Agricultural Education (which hosts the existing M.S. in AGED).

This particular proposal seeks establishment of the M.S. in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications (M.S. in ALEC). The existing AGED curriculum is currently hosted in the ALEC Program; however, the curriculum has not been updated in several years. The proposed M.S. in ALEC represents both a merging of the two overlapping disciplines of agricultural communications and agricultural education as well as a significant update to the education-related coursework. The M.S. in ALEC is a professional degree for training community and organizational content developers, classroom and non-formal educators, and those interested in media in agriculture. Students who will pursue the M.S. in ALEC are typically interested in beginning or in furthering their career in agricultural classrooms; extension roles; and professional organizations in training, communications, and/or supervisory roles. The proposed program will support students interested in gaining licensure for teaching agriculture in Illinois public schools for grades 9 to 12.

Because the proposed program is essentially replacing another program, significant impact on faculty resources, student-to-faculty ratios, library, and other instructional resources is not anticipated.

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 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 recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.