Approved by the Board of Trustees

March 17, 2022

28

Board Meeting

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## ELIMINATE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY, PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER’S CONCENTRATION, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Eliminate the Master of Science in Plant Biotechnology, Professional

Science Masters Concentration, College of Agricultural, Consumer and

Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No funding impact is expected.

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 eliminate the Master of Science in Plant Biotechnology, Professional Science Master’s Concentration (M.S. in Plant Biotech PSM).

Enrollments in the M.S. in Plant Biotech PSM have been extremely low; specifically, zero students in 2021 and 2020, one student in 2019, zero students in 2018, 2017, and 2016, and three students in 2015 and 2014. In contrast, enrollments in the Department of Crop Sciences’ online Master of Science program have increased in recent years. Therefore, the department will be shifting the administrative resources being used for the M.S. in Plant Biotech PSM toward the online M.S.

There is no impact on funding, facilities, libraries, or technology. Staff working with this program also work with the online M.S., and they will be able to shift their energy toward it with the elimination of the M.S. in Plant Biotech PSM. Similarly, faculty teaching in the program also teach in other programs in the Department of Crop Sciences and in the School of Integrative Biology. These faculty will be able to put their energy toward these other programs, and there will not be an impact on class sizes or offerings because the courses which comprise the program are parts of other programs.

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.