APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College Agriculture and Life Sciences **Department:** Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology

Contact Person: Darrell Sparks **Mail Stop:** 9760 **E-mail:** darrell.sparks@msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Department Name Cha **Date Initiated:** April 2024

Current Department Name: Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology

Current Major: N/A

Current Concentration(s): N/A

Current Campus(es): Starkville

New Department Name: Agricultural Science and Plant Protection **Effective Date:** 05/16/24

Semester	Year
Fall	2024

Proposed Major: N/A

Proposed Concentration(s): N/A

Proposed Campus(es): Starkville

Summary of Proposed Changes:

The Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology is being reorganized as the Department of Agricultural Science and Plant Protection. Degree programs and faculty in Entomology and Plant Pathology disciplines will be part of this new department. Moreover, the B.S. in Agricultural Science will also be maintained in this department.

Approved:	Date:
Digitally signed by Fred Musser Date: 2024.07.09 09:59:53 -05'00'	07/09/2024
Department Head	
Director of Academic Quality	
Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	
Darrell Sparks Digitally signed by Darrell Sparks Date: 2024.07.09 10:08:15 -05'00'	07/09/2024
Dean of College or School	
Digitally signed by Andy Perkins Date: 2024.07.19 15:47:41 -05'00'	7/19/24
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)	
Peter Liam Ryan	Friday, August 2nd, 2024
Chair, Deans Council	

MODIFICATION TO EXISTING ACADEMIC UNIT

Institutional Request Form – Appendices 13abc

(Submit in PDF format with signatures.)

Institutional request for the following modification:		
☒Rename	☒Reorganize	☐Delete

Institution:	Mississippi State University
Date of anticipated modification implementation:	May 2024
Current unit title(s):	Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology
New unit title:	Department of Agricultural Science and Plant Protection
Unit head:	Dr. Fred Musser (interim)
Phone:	662-722-8281
Email:	fmusser@entomology.msstate.edu

Reorganization - Complete this section if modification being requested is the reorganization of academic units.		
Total number of faculty/faculty displaced:	15	0
Total number of staff/staff displaced:	34	0
Organizational units to operate under reorganized unit:	Not Applicable	

Deletion - Complete this section if modification being requested is the deletion of an academic unit.		
Total number of faculty/faculty displaced:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Total number of staff/staff displaced:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Organizational units to operate under unit:	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Degree programs offered within unit:	Click or tap here to enter text.	
Effect on institutional role and mission:	Click or tap here to enter text.	

Reason for request:

In evaluating synergies within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, movement of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (affiliated faculty, staff, and degree programs) to Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion will promote more health-focused career opportunities for our students as well as better facilitate both basic and applied research collaborations. Entomology and Plant Pathology (faculty, staff, and degree programs) will be reorganized into the Department of Agricultural Science and Plant Protection. This reorganized department will acquire the B.S. in Agricultural Science from the School of Human Sciences but will not require movement of any faculty as this degree program is already based on courses that are cross-disciplinary in nature, and currently includes focus areas of integrated crop management, agricultural pest management, and precision agriculture, so it is well-suited to be housed in the reorganized department.

Please respond to the questions on the following pages to aid the institution and IHL staff in making recommendations to the IHL Board of Trustees regarding this proposal.

_____ _____

Chief Academic Officer Signature – Date Institutional Executive Officer Signature – Date

MODIFICATION TO EXISTING ACADEMIC UNIT

Institutional Request Form – Appendices 13abc

(Submit in PDF format with signatures.)

Unit Modification Questions:

(For renaming and reorganization requests only. Not required for deletion requests.)

1 Does the proposed modification further the mission of your institution? If so, how? (Note if this is helping meet priorities/goals of your strategic plan.)

Yes, this reorganization will enhance learning opportunities for students in the undergraduate Agricultural Science program as it will provide more experiential learning opportunities. The students in the B.S. in Agricultural Science program are heavily interested in pursuing careers in both traditional farm management as well as crop consulting. This reorganized department will better link these students to faculty directly working with stakeholders in these fields. Moreover, experiential learning is the focus of MSU's new quality enhancement plan called the Bulldog Experience, which will formally launch in Fall 2024. This reorganization will also make us more competitive in terms of recruiting students, which is imperative with the looming enrollment cliff.

2 Will the proposed modification change the administration of the unit? If so, describe how the proposed unit will be administered including the name and title of person(s) who will be responsible for the proposed unit.

Currently, the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology (BCH-EPP) has an interim head. Once this reorganization is approved, the current interim head of BCH-EPP (Dr. Daniel Peterson – Professor and Director for the Institute for Genomics, Bio-Computing and Biotechnology) will become the interim head of Biochemistry, Nutrition, and Health Promotion. Dr. Fred Musser (Professor of Row Crop Entomology) will become the interim head of the reorganized Department of Agricultural Science and Plant Protection. A search will be conducted for a permanent head.

3 Will the proposed modification result in the expansion of the institution's academic degree program inventory?

No, the number of degree offerings will not be affected. The B.S. in Agricultural Science will just be housed in a different unit.

4 Will the proposed modification make it necessary to add faculty and staff to operate the proposed unit? If so, give the desired qualifications of the person(s) to be added, a timetable for adding new faculty and staff, and the associated costs.

At this time, additional faculty and staff will not be needed for this reorganization. As vacancies occur, positions will be reevaluated to determine if a change in appointment is needed. In terms of leadership, currently, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has 9 academic heads, and it will have that same number after reorganization.

5 Is the proposed modification consistent with the academic unit structures of peer institutions?

This modification will result in a department that is more typical of land-grant institutions with entomology and plant pathology programs. For example, at Auburn University, NC State University, Oklahoma State University, University of Arkansas, and University of Tennessee, Entomology and Plant Pathology exist as a single unit.

6 Provide organizational charts showing the present administrative scheme and the proposed administrative scheme. (Names of persons are not required)

See attached.

7 Describe the evaluation process which led to the request for the proposed modification.

For the last 15 years, Entomology and Plant Pathology have been part of the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular, Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology. However, at most peer and peer-plus land-grant institutions that offer these disciplines, they exist as a standalone department. Currently, these programs support 21 graduate students, but there is no undergraduate B.S. degree offered in either of these fields. However, the B.S. in Agricultural Science has developed into a thriving program with 88 students enrolled in Spring 2024. This degree program is currently housed in the School of Human Sciences and allows students to choose focus areas for restricted electives. Of the focus area options, integrated crop management, precision agriculture, and agricultural pest management are very popular options. Therefore, we believe that moving this degree program to the reorganized Department of Agricultural Science and Plant Protection (ASPP) will provide a better connection to industry as well as enhance research and graduate education opportunities by aligning the primary focus areas of the B.S. in Agricultural Science with the research being conducted by faculty within the same department. The movement of this degree will not require any faculty or staff from the School of Human Sciences to be moved.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost and
Executive Vice President
P. O. Box BQ
3500 Lee Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762-5566
P: 662.325.3742

May 23, 2024

IHL BOARD NOTIFICATION

TO: Scott Willard, Dean
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

FROM: David Shaw
Provost and Executive Vice President

This is your official notification that permission to rename the following academic units, received final approval by the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning at the May 2024 board meeting.

from: Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology
to: Department of Agricultural Science and Plant Protection

from: Department of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion
to: Department of Biochemistry, Nutrition, and Health Promotion

c: Mark Keenum, President
Peter Ryan, Executive Vice Provost & Dean, Graduate School
Tracey Baham, Associate VP for Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness, OIRE
John Dickerson, Assistant VP, Enrollment
Emily Shaw, Registrar
Amy Adkerson, Associate Registrar
Dana Franz, Director of Academic Quality, OIRE
Diann Nichols, Associate Director for Institutional Effectiveness, OIRE
Andy Perkins, Chair, UCCC
Fred Musser, Interim Head, Agricultural Science and Plant Protection
Daniel Peterson, Interim Head, Biochemistry, Nutrition, and Health Promotion

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
MS AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION
Office of the Dean and Director
Box 9760
Mississippi State, MS 39762

July 8, 2024

Dr. Andy Perkins
Chair – University Committee on Courses and Curricula
Mississippi State University

Dr. Perkins:

Both the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology and the Department of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have received approval from the IHL Board of Trustees to be reorganized as the Department of Agricultural Science and Plant Protection and the Department of Biochemistry, Nutrition, and Health Promotion, respectively. As a result of these changes, academic programs related to the original departments will need to re-homed as well. These changes are summarized below.

Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology (BCH-EPP) will change to Agricultural Science and Plant Protection (AGSPP) with the following academic programs:

- Undergraduate Minor – Entomology
- Undergraduate Minor – Plant Pathology
- B.S. in Agricultural Science
- Master of Agriculture in Agriculture – Entomology Concentration – Non-Thesis
- Master of Agriculture in Agriculture – Plant Pathology Concentration – Non-Thesis
- M.S. in Agricultural Life Sciences – Entomology Concentration – Thesis
- M.S. in Agricultural Life Sciences – Plant Pathology Concentration – Thesis
- Ph.D. in Life Sciences – Entomology Concentration
- Ph.D. in Life Sciences – Plant Pathology Concentration

Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion (FNHP) will change to Biochemistry, Nutrition, and Health Promotion (BNHP) with the following academic programs:

- Undergraduate Minor – Biochemistry
- Undergraduate Minor – Food Science
- Undergraduate Credential – Meat Science
- B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- B.S. in Culinology
- B.S. in Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion
- Graduate Certificate – Clinical Health Promotion and Wellness Coaching
- M.S. in Agricultural Life Sciences – Biochemistry Concentration – Thesis
- M.S. in Agricultural Life Sciences – Biochemistry Concentration – Non-Thesis

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- M.S. in Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion – Food Science and Technology Concentration – Thesis
- M.S. in Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion – Health Promotion Concentration – Thesis
- M.S. in Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion – Health Promotion Concentration – Non-Thesis
- M.S. in Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion – Nutrition Concentration – Thesis
- Master of Public Health
- Ph.D. in Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion – Food Science and Technology Concentration
- Ph.D. in Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion – Functional Foods, Nutrition, and Health Concentration
- Ph.D. in Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion – Nutrition Concentration
- Ph.D. in Life Sciences – Biochemistry Concentration
- Ph.D. in Molecular Biology

As the designated program coordinators for BCH-EPP and FNHP, we confirm that the above changes are correct and shall be effective for Fall 2024.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Natraj Krishnan
Date: 2024.07.08 15:29:48 -05'00'

Dr. Natraj Krishnan
Graduate Coordinator, BCH-EPP

Digitally signed by Aswathy Rai
DN: cn=Aswathy Rai, o=BCHEPP, ou=Mississippi State University, email=anr424@msstate.edu, c=US
Date: 2024.07.08 19:14:25 -05'00'

Dr. Aswathy Rai
Undergraduate Coordinator, BCH-EPP

Wen-Hsing Cheng
Digitally signed by Wen-Hsing Cheng
Date: 2024.07.08 15:49:07 -05'00'

Dr. Wen-Hsing Cheng
Graduate Coordinator, FNHP

Mark W. Schilling
Digitally signed by Mark W. Schilling
Date: 2024.07.08 22:20:33 -05'00'

Dr. Wes Schilling
Undergraduate Coordinator, FNHP

Mandy Conrad
Digitally signed by Mandy Conrad
Date: 2024.07.08 18:39:21 -05'00'

Dr. Mandy Conrad
Director of Didactic Program in Dietetics, FNHP

Renee Matich
Digitally signed by Renee Matich
Date: 2024.07.09 13:30:56 -05'00'

Ms. Renee Matich
Dietetic Program Coordinator, FNHP