

APPENDIX O

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Turfgrass Science at North Carolina State University

Introduction

North Carolina State University notified General Administration of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science Degree in Turfgrass Science (01.0607) in December 2004. The university now requests approval to establish the program in March 2006.

Program Description

The proposed major in Turfgrass Science will replace the current Turfgrass Management concentration in the existing B. S. in Agronomy; revisions in the curriculum have changed the focus of the concentration to turfgrass science. The proposed turfgrass science degree is an integrated program of basic and applied science courses necessary to understand and apply plant management techniques specific to turfgrasses. Additionally, the turfgrass science major will include courses in business to provide the opportunity for graduates to understand underlying business practices for common turfgrass enterprises.

The proposed major is intended for students who are pursuing a career in the golf course industry, lawn care, athletic field management, sod production, turfgrass equipment, and supply sales. If this change is approved by the Board of Governors, students will receive a degree in turfgrass science rather than in Agronomy. This degree will more appropriately represent their program of study.

Program Need

Turfgrass management is a billion dollar industry and a reliable employer of NCSU graduates. Major sectors of the turfgrass industry include single family dwellings, lawn care services, commercial properties, golf courses, school and churches, cemeteries, athletic fields, and roadside turfgrass. The proposed major will contribute to NCSU's mission by creating an innovative learning environment that is desired by students. Currently, Turfgrass Management (TAT) is one of the most highly enrolled concentrations within the Agronomy major. The proposed degree in Turfgrass Science is expected to be more visible and attract more majors. Additionally, it is projected that there will still be a strong interest in a major in Agronomy.

Resources

The current resources for offering the concentration in turfgrass management program will be used for offering the proposed major in turfgrass science. The same faculty, library acquisitions, personnel, and equipment will be used to offer turfgrass science as was used to offer turfgrass management. The proposed degree is currently being offered now as a concentration, and there will not be any substantive changes moving from a concentration to a major.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve North Carolina State University's request to establish the Bachelor of Science in Turfgrass Science, effective April 2006.