

Contemplation of Program Discontinuance and Position Retrenchment
Program: **Agronomy**
January 2011

Program Summary

The SMSU Agronomy Program prepares students for careers in many crop production and natural resource conservation roles. SMSU Agronomy graduates would seek employment in wide variety of areas such as: crop management consulting, agronomists or technical representatives for seeds, agricultural chemicals, crop protection companies, crop advisors/consultants, extension educators, state and federal regulatory professionals, farm managers, soil and water specialists/conservationists and research technicians. In order to complete the Bachelor of Science in Agronomy, students must complete 71-74 credits in the major. A total of 18 credits are required for a minor in Agronomy.

Faculty

The program has one probationary faculty who has a terminal degree in Agronomy.

This proposal recommends the Agronomy major and minor be discontinued. One probationary faculty member would be retrenched.

Statistical Profile / Synopsis

The attached documents include: Instructional Cost Study data, five-year enrollments, number of majors by department, degrees awarded, College Now data, Liberal Arts Curriculum (LAC) service, faculty salaries without summer session, and re-assigned time.

Agronomy had a total course enrollment for FY10 of 95 credits, 0 courses in the Liberal Arts Curriculum, 0 courses in College Now, and a student FYE of 3.1 for FY10. Total headcount in Agronomy courses in academic year 2009 (first year of the Program) was 18 in 4 courses; in 2011 the headcount was 82 in 10 courses.

Per the Instructional Cost Study, the cost of lower-division instruction in the Program has risen from \$1,198 per FYE in FY 06 to \$14,809 in FY 09 (the last year of available Cost Study data for the Program). There is no System average solely for Agronomy, as the Program is unique in the MnSCU System. Instead, the data is coded to CIP 01 as Soil Science/Agronomy. Lower-division courses in this area cost \$1,198 per FYE in FY 06, setting the bar for the System average. By FY 09, the cost (with the newly-established Agronomy Program) rose to \$14,809, compared to a System average for the CIP code of \$3,522. Over the same period, the total loss within the allocation model funding for the Program in lower-division courses rose from 0 to \$11,664.

Instructional Cost Study data for upper-division courses in Agronomy is not yet available, as these figures are two years in arrears. The first year major data for the Program is available is FY 10; 7 students were identified as Agronomy majors at that time. No degrees have been awarded in this Program yet.

Relevant System Data

SMSU is the only four-year institution in the MnSCU system with an Agronomy Program. Two-year schools that offer programs in Agricultural Science and Technology include: Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Fergus Falls, South Central Community and Technical College-Mankato, Minnesota

West Community and Technical College-Worthington, Ridgewater Community and Technical College-Willmar, and Minnesota Online.

Rationale

The University has not been able to generate the resources necessary to sustain a viable Agronomy Program. Demand appears to be low. The five-year enrollment/fiscal data provided in the accompanying documents, staffing needs, current budget realities and the need to reallocate resources for maximum service to students and their continued success, have led to the proposal to discontinue the Agronomy Program and retrench the faculty member. Remaining Agronomy majors can complete coursework with Agronomy faculty at SMSU through a specified date, or they may choose to change their major.

Soil Sciences/Agronomy - CIP 01

Instructional Cost Detail

	Lower Division					Upper Division				
	FY 10	FY 09	FY 08	FY 07	FY 06	FY 10	FY 09	FY 08	FY 07	FY 06
STUDENT FYE	1.4	1.1			2.4	1.7	0.3			
Credits	43	32			73	52	8			
Tuition Revenue	8,252	5,990	-		11,795	9,983	1,511			
Total Instructional Costs	31,094	34,153			4,724	31,094	15,201			
SMSU Instr Exp/FYE	21,744	32,019			1,944	17,973	56,998			
State Average Exp/FYE	7,690	8,115				17,938	56,998			

Non-Salary Operating Budget	711	495
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Notes:

Institutional Allocation Detail

Institution	Lower Division					Upper Division				
	FY 10	FY 09	FY 08	FY 07	FY 06	FY 10	FY 09	FY 08	FY 07	FY 06
Southwest Minnesota SU		14,809			1,198					
MnSCU System Average		3,522			1,198					

Funding Data	FY 10	FY 09	FY 08	FY 07	FY 06	FY 10	FY 09	FY 08	FY 07	FY 06
Total Gain/(Loss)		(11,664)			0					
Gain/(Loss) per FYE		(10,901)			0					

AGRONOMY COURSE ENROLLMENTS (HEADCOUNT PER COURSE)
2005-2010

Crs Subj	Crs #	Title	Acad Year								Total		
			2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011				
AGRO	101	Principles & Practices of Crop Production						8				8	
	101L	Principles & Practices of Crop Production Lab						4				4	
	115	Professional Development in Agriculture: Orientation & Career Planning							4			11	
	132	Principles & Practices of Crop Production							12			12	
	212	Grain & Forage Crop Management							10			26	
	215	Professional Development in Agriculture: Career Planning							4			4	
	315	Professional Development in Agriculture: Internship										1	
	325	Seed Science and Grain Grading						2		10		6	18
	332	Crop Quality, Traits, & Utilization										9	9
	341	Principles of Pest Management								16		8	24
	420	Soil Fertility and Fertilizers										8	8
440	Plant Breeding										12	12	
450	Issues in Sustainable Agriculture										5	5	
454	Experimental Design in Agriculture										10	10	
AGRO Total								18	52		82	152	

DECLARED AGRONOMY MAJORS/MINORS AS OF JAN 2011

Major1	Major2	ST CLASS	Orig Yr	Minor	ExpGradTerm
AGRO		SR	20093		
AGRO		SO	20113		
AGBU		SO	20103		
AGRO	AGRO	FR	20113		
AGRO		FR	20113		
AGRO		JR	20113		
AGRO		SR	20103		
AGRO		JR	20115		
AGRO		JR	20113		
AGRO		FR	20113		
AGRO		SR	20073	COCH	
AGRO		SR	20093		

NOTES: 12 declared Agronomy majors.

SR: 4
 JR: 3
 SO: 2
 FR: 3

DECLARED MINORS

SR: 0
 JR: 0
 SO: 1
 FR: 0

AGRONOMY DEGREES AWARDED 04-10

Degrees Awarded	Period July 01-June 30						Grand
MAJOR_NAME:	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
Agronomy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SMSU LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM
(as approved Dec, 2010)

Number of sections offered													Grand Total
Subject	Crs #	20063	20065	20073	20075	20083	20085	20093	20095	20103	20105	Total	
ART	100	5	2	2	6	1	5	2	2	3	2	29	
BIOL	100	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	18	
	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	
CHEM	110	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	
	121	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	
	231	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	
ECON	201	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	34	
	202	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	27	
ENG	107	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	14	
	151											0	
ENVS	100					1	1	2	1	1	1	6	
	180	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	
FREN	101	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	
	102	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	
	201	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	
	202	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	
HIST	210	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	25	
	221	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	11	
	222	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	19	
	242	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	9	
	243	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	9	
HUMT	203	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	11	
IDST	100											0	
	400											0	
JUAD	144	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	33	

SMSU LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM
(as approved Dec, 2010)

Subject	Crs #	Number of sections offered										Grand Total			
		20063	20065	20073	20075	20083	20085	20093	20095	20103	20105				
LT	100	1													6
	120														2
	150	1													4
	170		1												3
	200	5	5												46
	261	1	1												5
	262	1	1												9
	263	1													5
	264														4
	265		1												4
MATH	101	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
	110	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
	115	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	39
	135	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
	140	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
	150	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	15
MUS	100	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	15
	101	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
	102	2		1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
	104							1							2
PHIL	100	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	16
	103	1		2	3	1	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	25
	105														2
	107		1		1		1	1							6
	110														0
	230				1										2
	240														2
PHYS	121	1			1										5
POL	120	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	23
	227	1		1		1		1		1		1		1	4
PSYC	101	8	5	7	5	6	4	7	7	4	6	3		55	

Faculty Salary

(Based on HR Assignments - Includes Release time and Reassign time and Extra Duty Days)
(Excludes Benefits and Summer Session Salary)

Faculty Name	Fiscal Year				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Agronomy					
Armah-Agyeman				62,399	57,587
Gehle				3,073	3,248

Re-Assign Time - Salary Only

Comments	2006	2007	Fiscal Year 2008	2009	2010
Agronomy					
Armah-Agyeman					
3 credits reassigned time Spring to develop Agronomy major				7,198	
8 credits reassigned time Fall to develop Agronomy major				18,829	
Reassigned time: 4 credits Fall and 3 credits Spring to develop Agronomy major					16,798

Extra Duty Days - Salary Only

Description	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Agronomy Armah-Agyeman Extra Days to complete work in the Agronomy area prior to classes starting.				5,377	