

AACR 4

Office of the President
March 10, 2009

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Equine Science and Management degree with a major in Equine Science and Management (CIP Code 01.0307, PROG = AG BSESM ESMA) in the College of Agriculture, effective spring 2009 semester.

Background: Approximately 30 percent of Kentucky economic income is from agricultural sources, and the equine industry statewide is the largest contributor to that income with an estimated \$4 billion in economic impact to the state. There are at least 320,000 horses in Kentucky that represent many different breeds. The College of Agriculture has served the equine industry through its research and extension mission for years but has not provided a formal Bachelor of Science degree program to support the industry.

This will be an interdisciplinary program administered by a steering committee representing the Departments of Animal and Food Sciences, Agricultural Economics, Plant and Soil Sciences, Nutrition and Food Sciences, and Veterinary Science. Students will work with a faculty advisor to choose appropriate courses based upon their interest in Equine Science (for students intending to work as farm managers or those intending to go to veterinary school upon completion of the degree) or Equine Management (for students who want to work in the broader equine industry).

The degree program meets needs on a state, regional, and national level. It also completes the tripartite mission of education, research, and extension for the horse industry in the Commonwealth. Given that the Bluegrass is the Horse Capital of the World, UK and the College of Agriculture should be recognized as the leader in equine education, research, and outreach. This program will ensure that the University of Kentucky is indeed the leader in this area.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and University Senate and has completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The provost supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____