Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Establish a Master of Animal Sciences with a major in Animal Sciences, in the Department of Animal Sciences, in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

SPONSOR: Douglas Parrett, Professor and Head, Department of Animal Sciences, 300-5634, dparrett@illinois.edu

COLLEGE CONTACT: Mary Lowry, Assistant Dean-College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, 333-9391, lowry@illinois.edu

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: We seek to introduce the option for students with a baccalaureate degree to pursue a non-thesis Master of Animal Sciences (MAS) in Animal Sciences degree. This new option addresses degree needs expressed by students, faculty and industry while broadening the education and training service offered the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UofI). The proposed non-thesis MAS is complementary to the existing Master of Science (MS) in Animal Sciences program that requires the successful completion, defense, and deposit of a research thesis. The MAS and MS have the same total credit hours and seminar credit hour requirements. A difference between the two programs is that the MS requirement of 8 hours of thesis research is replaced with 6 hours of research studies plus 2 additional credit hours of graduate-level course work in the MAS program. The MAS program includes prescribed course-work and development of a research studies project report to ensure that the students understand and apply the scientific method and develop science communication skills comparable to those pursuing a MS degree that includes a thesis requirement.

JUSTIFICATION. The proposed non-thesis MAS program addresses three needs that have developed in recent years.

The proposed program will answer the intra- and extra-mural demand for a non-thesis post-baccalaureate master-level degree in Animal Sciences. A large proportion of this demand comes from national and global biotechnology and agriculture industry sectors. Another major proportion comes from students with a baccalaureate degree that want to broaden their knowledge, skills and career opportunities that would not benefit from thesis research. The proposed program will capitalize both from Midwest companies that support the professional development of their employees and from individuals seeking advanced studies to progress in their careers. Moreover, the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) is a global leader in agricultural and biotechnology research and a non-thesis Master program grants the opportunity to reach out and aid communities at a global scale. The program requirements and departmental resources (i.e. courses, administration) already in place will enable both domestic and international part and full-time students to complete the degree requirements in a timely fashion. At this time the number of relevant animal sciences courses offered online is limited and a distance education or online master program in animal sciences cannot be completed. The opportunity to offer distance education and online graduate programs in animal sciences will be evaluated in the future.
Individuals that secure a MAS degree will benefit from broader and higher-ranking career opportunities than individuals that hold a baccalaureate degree. Among these expanded opportunities are careers in food security and safety such as agricultural managers responsible for animal growth, health, reproduction, genetic improvement, breeding, and well-being. Animal scientists are also responsible for the care and well-being of companion and competition animal and wildlife species.

Non-D.V.M. animal scientist employment was estimated at approximately 1.3 million positions in 2012 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015). This metric includes animal breeders, animal scientists, agricultural managers, nonfarm animal caretakers, laboratory animal caretakers, zoologists, and wildlife biologists. The number of job openings projected between 2012 and 2022 for these positions is approximately 260,000. Animal scientists made an average yearly wage of $72,930 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2013). The job opportunities for animal scientists alone are expected to increase 9% between 2012 and 2022, while postsecondary teachers would see 19% job growth during the same period. Moreover, nonfarm animal caretakers will see 15%, or faster-than-average, growth in jobs during the same 10-year period.

Animal scientist ranked 8th among “awesome jobs for people who love science” tied with chemists and chemical engineers (Business Insider, 2015). The complementary nature of the proposed and existing MS options will prepare graduates to meet the predicted 9 to 19% growth in animal sciences-related jobs. Adequate preparation for many of these positions does not necessitate thesis research but requires the type of well-rounded scientific course work and experiential learning opportunities that the Department of Animal Sciences at UofI is well-known for providing and that the proposed curriculum will deliver.

There is also additional intramural demand for a non-thesis MAS program. The number of students inquiring about advanced studies in Animal Sciences leading to a Masters’ degree has steadily increased in recent years. The thesis research requirement and tuition-waiver nature of the present MS with thesis program limit the number of students that can be admitted. Moreover, many students are not interested in completing a research thesis experience. The proposed replacement of thesis hour requirement with research studies hour requirement will enable the admission of more students that can pursue a wider range of in-campus or off-campus experiential learning projects to fulfill the MAS requirements.

Students pursuing degrees at UofI will also benefit from the proposed non-thesis MAS program. Many baccalaureate programs at UofI including Animal Sciences, encouraged students to take advantage of experiential learning opportunities such as on- and off-campus internships, international travel experiences, livestock evaluation team experiences, and humane society internships. The proposed non-thesis MAS will enable students to further explore and advance these experiences while completing the research study requirements. Also, the advanced coursework work and research studies project required for a non-thesis MAS program will strengthen the graduates’ likelihood to be admitted to Veterinary School programs.

From a programmatic perspective, the non-thesis MAS program will allow the Department of Animal Sciences at UofI to remain competitive among disciplinary programs. Many peer
institutions offer master degrees with non-thesis options in the area of Animal Sciences. Most of these degree-granting initiatives have been in place for less than five years. Based on the enrollment in these programs and on the interest communicated by students pursuing baccalaureate degrees at UofI, we anticipate initial enrollments of 8 students per year increasing steadily in subsequent years.

The graduate program offered by the Department of Animal Sciences at UofI is ranked among the top 3 in research productivity and impact and graduate placement. Our department is exceptionally positioned to offer intellectually enriching and career-advancing education to students pursuing the proposed MAS program. These unique education experiences will be facilitated by the large number of courses and lead by animal sciences faculty leaders in many disciplines including Nutrition, Genomics, Reproduction, Bioinformatics, Microbiology, Immunology, Behavior, Meat Sciences, and Physiology.

**Graduation requirements**

The proposed non-thesis MAS program requires a total of 32 credit hours including 2 hours of Animal Sciences seminar (ANSC 590). These requirements are equal to the thesis MS program. The proposed non-thesis MAS program has a higher number of prescribed requirements to ensure that the students receive the same caliber of rigorous scientific education afforded by thesis research. The table below offers a side-by-side comparison between the thesis MS and proposed non-thesis MAS programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Master of Science in Animal Sciences (with Thesis)</th>
<th>Master of Animal Sciences (without thesis)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Sciences (ANSC 590) seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coursework:</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics course (ANSC 445 or 440)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>500-level courses (excludes ANSC 590, 592, 593)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Thesis (ANSC 599)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total coursework hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
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Applications to the MAS and MS programs require the same documents: baccalaureate degree transcripts, resume, personal statement, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test scores, and three letters of recommendation. One letter of recommendation must be provided by an Animal Sciences faculty member committed to advise the student on a particular research studies project.
A departmental committee will evaluate the applications and recommend admissions. The departmental website (http://ansci.illinois.edu) listing the graduate program of studies will include a statement indicating that applicants considering Ph.D. studies are encouraged to apply to the M.S. or Ph.D. thesis programs in Animal Sciences.

Students enrolled in the MAS program are required to complete at least 2 credit hours of seminar, at least 4 credit hours in statistics coursework, at least 6 credit hours in 500-level courses, and at least 6 credit hours in research studies leading to a capstone project. The Animal Sciences graduate program handbook will include examples of course series recommended for different disciplines together with timelines, and milestones to facilitate strategic planning of the student’s experiences. Students, in consultation with the faculty advisor, will select courses that support the research studies project and strengthen their career opportunities.

An individual research studies experience (for example a project or internship experience) will fulfill the ANSC 592 (Advanced Topics in Animal Science) or ANSC 593 (Research Studies in Animal Sciences) capstone project requirement. The grade received for ANSC 592 or ANSC 593 will reflect the performance of the student during the project or internship and the quality of a written product summarizing the project or internship experience. The faculty advisor will offer timely and expert guidance and feedback on the project and written product. Once a year, a departmental committee will evaluate the progress of each student enrolled in the non-thesis MAS program and will meet with the student to discuss the evaluation outcomes.

Students in the non-thesis MAS program, in consultation with their faculty advisor, will develop a memorandum of agreement document describing the objective and scope of the capstone project. The memorandum of agreement will be reviewed by a departmental committee before approval to register for ANSC 592 or 593. The project or internship and the written product are expected to provide evidence that the student: i) understands and can apply the scientific method; ii) has the capability to analyze and interpret scientific information; and iii) can effectively communicate scientific information in a field of animal sciences. The written product will follow the format and style of a peer-reviewed manuscript.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

1) **Resources**
   a. **How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?**
   
   This proposal has no budgetary or staff implications and does not require changes in the number of course offerings. The proposed MAS program is expected to serve on average 8 students per year (roughly 8% of our graduate student population) during the first 5 years of the program. The impact to the unit is predicted to be small during the first years of the program. The unit’s own financial resources will be used to support further programmatic growth.

   b. **How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?**
   
   The graduate program and instructional unit funds received by the department will be applied to support the proposed program.
c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.

The courses listed through Animal Sciences are not at capacity and will accommodate the student enrolled in the proposed program.

d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.

The letter of acknowledgement from the College of ACES is included in Appendix C.

2) Resource Implications

a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

Please refer to answer to point 1.a and 1.b.

b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units. (A letter of acknowledgement from units impacted should be included.)

The credit hour requirements of the proposed program can be satisfied with Animal Sciences (ANSC) courses. Although some degree requirements can be satisfied with non-ANSC courses, this flexibility is not expected to impact in a substantial manner the enrollment in other units.

c. Please address the impact on the University Library (A letter of estimated impact from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals. If the impact is above and beyond normal library business practices, describe provisions for how this will be resourced.)

The impact on the University Library is expected to be minimal. The letter of acknowledgement from the University Library is included in Appendix D.

d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

The impact on technology and space is expected to be minimal. Classrooms and computer laboratories assigned to courses that satisfied the proposed program requirements are not used to full capacity.

For new degree programs only:

3) Briefly describe how this program will support the University’s mission, focus, and/or current priorities. Include specific objectives and measurable outcomes that demonstrate the program’s consistency with and centrality to that mission.

The proposed non-thesis MAS program complements the existing MS with thesis program and both programs support the university’s mission.
4) Please provide an analysis of the market demand for this degree program. What market indicators are driving this proposal? What type of employment outlook should these graduates expect?

Please refer to the Justification section.

5) If this is a proposed graduate program, please discuss the programs intended use of waivers. If the program is dependent on waivers, how will the unit compensate for lost tuition revenue?

The proposed graduate program will be offered as a self-supporting program. The tuition and fees for the Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences will be assessed at the standard University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign graduate studies base-rate, using the hourly ranges.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: (Proposals may not be implemented until they go through all necessary levels of approval. The Provost’s office will inform the sponsors in writing when they may implement their proposal. Proposed changes may not be publicized as final on any web sites, printed documents, etc. until written confirmation of final approval is issued.)

Fall 2018 or sooner upon approval
Appendix A:
Course Requirements and Program Administration
Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences

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<td><strong>Total coursework hours</strong> (minimum GPA is 3.0)</td>
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**Technical Coursework (26 hours)**

ANSC 590 seminar series (at least 2 credit hours), and

ANSC 445, ANSC 440 or comparable statistics course approved by the program (at least 4 credit hours), and

At least 6 credit hours of a 500-level courses, and

At least 6 credit hours of 400 or 500-level ANSC courses (excludes ANSC 590, 592, 593, 440, 445), and

At least 8 credit hours of graduate-level courses (excludes ANSC 590, 592, 593, 440, 445)

**Professional Development (6 hours)**

ANSC 592 or ANSC 593 research studies

In consultation with their faculty advisor, students will select courses that support the individual research studies project and strengthen career opportunities. The individual research studies project or internship experience and a written report will fulfill the ANSC 592 (Advanced Topics in Animal Science) or ANSC 593 (Research Studies in Animal Sciences) capstone project requirement. The project or internship and the written product provide evidence that the student: i) understands and can apply the scientific method; ii) has the capability to analyze and interpret scientific information; and iii) can effectively communicate scientific information in a field of animal sciences. The written product will follow the format and style of a peer-reviewed manuscript.

**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

The program will be administered by the Department of Animal Sciences Graduate Programs Coordinator or designated faculty member. The program director together with a departmental
committee will review applications, make admission decisions, review the research studies memorandum of agreement, and offer annual evaluations to the student and advisor faculty.
Appendix B:

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog:

Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences

ansci.illinois.edu

Head of the Department: Douglas Parrett
Graduate Program Coordinator: Sandra Rodriguez-Zas
110 Animal Sciences Laboratory
1207 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 244-0418
E-mail: ansci-gradprog@illinois.edu

Major: Animal Sciences
Degree offered: M. of Animal Sciences,

Graduate Degree Program

The Department of Animal Sciences offers graduate work leading to a Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences. Fields of specialization include:

- animal breeding and genetics
- animal behavior
- biochemistry
- bioinformatics
- environmental physiology
- immunobiology
- meat science and muscle biology
- microbiology
- nutrition (ruminant and non-ruminant)
- systems of animal management and production
- physiology of lactation
- physiology of reproduction

Beef and dairy cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and a variety of companion, recreational, and laboratory animals are available for study. Applicants considering Ph.D. studies are encouraged to apply to the M.S. or Ph.D. thesis programs in Animal Sciences. For more information, visit http://ansci.illinois.edu.

Admission

Application materials include baccalaureate degree transcripts, resume, personal statement, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test scores, and three letters of recommendation.
One letter of recommendation must be provided by the Animal Sciences faculty member indicating committed to mentor that will advise the student. A departmental committee will evaluate the applications and recommend admissions.

Degree Requirements

Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences

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Financial Aid

The tuition and fees for the Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences correspond to the standard University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign graduate studies tuition and fee rates. For tuition information and external funding resources, please visit the department's graduate program website. Students in the Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences degree are not eligible for Board of Trustees tuition waivers.
CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

Signatures:

Unit Representative: ____________________________ Date: 8-23-17

College Representative: ____________________________ Date:

Graduate College Representative: ____________________________ Date: 4-17

Council on Teacher Education Representative: ____________________________ Date:
Appendix C:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
at Urbana-Champaign

College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences

Academic Programs
128 Manfred Hall, MC-710
1301 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801

September 18, 2017

Dr. Sandra Rodriguez-Zas
Professor and Graduate Coordinator
Department of Animal Sciences, UIUC

RE: MS in Animal Sciences non-thesis option

Dear Dr. Rodriguez-Zas,

Thank you for developing the MS in Animal Sciences non-thesis option program. The College of ACES
Academic Program supports this initiative to move forward. I understand there is no financial obligation
from our college into this program.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Prasanta Kalita
September 14, 2017

Douglas Parrett
Head, Department of Animal Sciences
214 David Kinley Hall
M/C 630

Dear Prof. Parrett:

Earlier this week, the University Library received a proposal from ACES to establish a non-thesis option Master of Science in Animal Sciences in the Department of Animal Sciences, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

Based upon the documents we received and reviewed, it is our belief that there will be no significant impact on collection development, instruction, or other operations in the University Library.

If additional services or materials are required as the programs further develop, we will be happy to discuss those needs as they emerge.

Sincerely,

William H. Mischo
Acting Dean of Libraries and University Librarian
Berthold Family Professor in Information Access and Discovery

c-c: Mary Lowry, Assistant Dean, College of ACES
    Thomas Teper
    Sarah Williams
PROGRAM TUITION WAIVER POLICY REQUEST FORM

Definitions of Tuition Waiver Policy Designations:

Traditional Programs. Programs either designated as generating full or base-rate tuition waivers. Please note, new programs seeking Traditional classification with a full waiver do not need to complete this form.

Reimbursable Programs. Programs that have been approved to seek reimbursement from the student's employing unit. The academic program may seek reimbursement for the amount equal to the tuition waiver received by the student, which would have been a result from a waiver-generating appointment.

Cost-recovery and self-supporting programs. Students in approved cost-recovery and self-supporting programs are not eligible to receive tuition and fee waivers except statutory waivers. For example, these students may not hold waivingenerating appointments, receive stand-alone waivers or receive employee waivers. However students are eligible to receive tuition scholarships.

Information related to these tuition waiver classifications can be found here: http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/2/chapter/7/tuition-waivers#other/provisions.

Please contact the Graduate College if you have questions or seek clarifications, (217) 333-0035.

COLLEGE OR SCHOOL: College of ACES

PROGRAM: Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences

REQUESTED CLASSIFICATION: ☐ TRADITIONAL ☐ REIMBURSABLE ☑ SELF-SUPPORTING

JUSTIFICATION: On a separate sheet, please address the following.

1. Describe the reasons for this request and explain: (a) the pros and cons of the classification requested, and (b) how the requested classification will benefit and not adversely affect the academic quality of the program.

2. Describe how these measures affect the affordability of the program. What type of financial aid, if any, will be offered?

3. What provisions will be made to communicate the classification to prospective and newly admitted students?

4. Name the college and program contact persons in charge of implementing and communicating the classification details to students.

Unit Head Signature and Date: D. A. 1/28/17
College Dean Signature and Date: 10/4/17
PROGRAM TUITION WAIVER POLICY REQUEST FORM

Answers

1. Describe the reasons for this request and explain: (a) the pros and cons of the classification requested, and (b) how the requested classification will benefit and not adversely affect the academic quality of the program.

The reason for this request is that admissions to the current Master of Science in Animal Sciences program are limited by the number of assistantships and tuition waivers available in the department of Animal Sciences. The proposed program will help the department meet the demand for master degrees in animal sciences and the tuition and fees paid by the students are necessary to support this program.

A) The pros of the classification requested include the activities supported by the tuition funds resulting from the classification. These funds will be used to advance the students’ education and career opportunities, and the program’s impact and service. Tuition funds will be used for materials, supplies or resources required by the student to have hands-on experiences (intramural or extramural) and take advantage of experiential learning opportunities. Funds will be used for instructors that will deliver additional course laboratory and modules sections in response to higher enrollments or to develop new courses or seminars in response to the students’ needs. No cons for the students or program are identified.

B) The requested classification will benefit the students and program by adding a funding structure that is complementary to the assistantship and tuition-waiver structure already offered by the department through other graduate programs. The proposed program cannot be offered without the financial support coming from the student-paid tuition and fees.

2. Describe how these measures affect the affordability of the program. What type of financial aid, if any, will be offered?

A new program is proposed and the affordability of this new program is comparable to other programs with the same classification already offered at the University of Illinois at Urbana. Champaign. Tuition waivers and assistantships are not available to the students in this program and, students will be responsible for paying the program tuition and fees. The affordability of the proposed program is enhanced by the absence of thesis-related requirements that enables the express completion of the degree requirements. The department will reach out to industry and community stakeholders to investigate opportunities to offer scholarships to the students in the program.

3. What provisions will be made to communicate the classification to prospective and newly admitted students?

The classification will be clearly stated in the program’s websites hosted by the Graduate College and by the Department of Animal Sciences. The program description will include the statement “For tuition information and external funding resources, please visit the department’s graduate program website. Students in the Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences degree are not eligible for Board of Trustees tuition waivers.” Program materials, including admission letters, will also state that assistantships and tuition waivers are not available to students in this program.

4. Name the college and program contact persons in charge of implementing and communicating the classification details to students.

College contact person: Associate Dean for Academic Programs Prasanta Kalita

Department contact person: Director of Graduate Programs Sandra Rodriguez Zas
October 5, 2017

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to establish the Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences.

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Martensen
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: P. Kalita
   D. Parrett
   M. Lowry
   A. McKinney
   J. Hart
   A. Edwards
   E. Stuby
October 3, 2017

Kathy Martensen
Office of the Provost

Dear Kathy,

Included is a proposal from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to “Establish a Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences”.

The proposal was received on September 20, 2017 and reviewed at the Graduate College Executive Committee meeting on September 22, 2017. The committee approved the proposal with one minor suggested revision. This revision has been made and we find that this proposal meets the standards of Graduate Education at Illinois. We now forward for your review.

Sincerely,

Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko
Dean
Graduate College

c: Mary Lowry
Douglas Parrett
September 18, 2017

Allison McKinney, Director
Academic Programs, Policy and Academic Services
Graduate College
204 Coble Hall
Campus MC-322

Dear Allison:

I am writing to request Graduate College review for a new curricular proposal from the College of ACES. The Department of Animal Sciences is proposing to create a new Master of Animal Sciences (M.A.S.) degree program. A copy of the proposal is attached in Senate format.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

Prasanta K. Kalita
Associate Dean
ACES Academic Programs

PKK/rhc

cc: M. K. Lowry
    D. J. Miller
    D. F. Parrett
    S. L. Rodriguez-Zas
    ANSC C&C Binder