MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. John R. Giardino
Dean of Graduate Studies

THROUGH: Dr. Edward A. Hiler
Vice Chancellor and Dean
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

THROUGH: Dr. David Reed
Chair, Graduate Program Council

FROM: Dr. Robert Brown
Professor and Head, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
And
Dr. Joseph O’Leary
Professor and Head, Recreation Park and Tourism Sciences

SUBJECT: Request for Administrative Changes to Four M. Agr. Degrees

Enclosed find copies of our requests to make administrative changes to three M. Agr. degrees. The enclosed documents have been reviewed by Dr. Kubena and are designed to make the following changes:

1. WFSC request to change the title of the “Master of Agriculture in Wildlife Science” degree to “Master of Wildlife Science.”

2. WFSC request to change the title of the “Master of Agriculture in Fisheries Sciences” degree to “Master of Fisheries Science.”

3. RPTS request to change the title of the “Master of Agriculture in Recreation and Resource Development” to “Master of Recreation and Resource Development.”

4. WFSC, RPTS, FRSC and RLEM request to change the title of the “Master of Agriculture in Natural Resources Development” to “Master of Natural Resources Development.”
In the past year, we have informed and received verbal approval of these changes from the faculties and department heads of WFSC, FRSC, RPTS and RLEM. Thank you in advance for your help. If I can answer any questions, please feel free to call.

Enclosures

xc: IRNR Department Heads
Non-Substantive Administrative Change Request

NAME OF INSTITUTION  Texas A&M University

CHANGE REQUEST  That the title of the degree currently titled as “Master of Agriculture in Wildlife Science” be changed to “Master of Wildlife”

Display how administrative unit(s) and program(s) would appear on the Coordinating Board program inventory; include Texas CIP code designation(s). Administrative Unit codes will be supplied.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
Master of Wildlife

Proposed date for implementation of administrative change as soon as possible

Person to contact for further information about administrative change(s):

Name: Robert D. Brown  Title: Professor and Head
Phone: 979-845-1261  Fax: 979-845-3786
Email: rdbrown@tamu.edu

Signatures:

____________________________________________  _____________________________
Campus Chief Executive Officer  Date

____________________________________________  _____________________________
System Chief Executive Office (as appropriate)  Date

Governing Board approval date:  _____________________________
1. Describe briefly the change requested.

We request the word ‘Agriculture’ be removed from the degree currently titled as “Master of Agriculture in Wildlife Science.” We request that the degree be “Master of Wildlife.”

2. Provide a rationale for the proposed change.

The Master of Agriculture degree (M.Agr.) in Wildlife Science is a department-level degree. It is an attractive degree for mid-career professionals who need additional knowledge, but who do not need a Master of Science degree. We have been particularly successful at enrolling these students via distance education, so that they may earn the degree while continuing their employment in natural resource agencies and without disrupting their families by moving to campus.

The reasons for requesting the change in the title of this degree are numerous. The College of Agriculture at Texas A&M University changed its name to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences many years ago to better reflect the types of students it teaches and the types of degrees it offers. The students enrolled in this degree do not come from agricultural backgrounds. They come from natural resources or biology/zooology backgrounds. The new title of the degree would better reflect the wildlife science nature of the education these students receive. Thus, more of students with natural resources and/or wildlife backgrounds would be attracted to this degree, and, importantly, the title would better reflect the education the students receive for their current or potential employers.

This is one of four Master of Agriculture degrees being submitted for title changes. Many other Master of Agriculture Degrees in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are not being proposed for title changes, in that those degree are in fact agricultural degrees. Thus their titles accurately reflect the nature of the education the students in those programs receive.

3. Include an assessment of its effect on the administrative unit(s) involved and on the instruction as whole. If a unit is being renamed, will program names need to be changed? If so, submit a separate nonsubstantive program request for each change.

The proposed degree name change will not have any effects on the administrative units involved or the institution as a whole.

4. Summarize implications for classes, distribution of personnel, availability of facilities, and availability of equipment.

The proposed change will have minimal effects on classes, personnel, facilities or equipment since this degree has been available previously for students on campus and at a distance.

5. Give information regarding any additional costs or savings.

Catalogue listings and department brochures will require little modification at a small cost.
Non-Substantive Administrative Change Request

NAME OF INSTITUTION  Texas A&M University

CHANGE OF REQUEST  That the title of the degree currently titled as "Master of Agriculture in Fisheries Science" be changed to "Master of Fisheries"

Display how administrative unit(s) and program(s) would appear on the Coordinating Board program inventory; include Texas CIP code designation(s). Administrative Unit codes will be supplied.

   Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
   Master of Fisheries

Proposed date for implementation of administrative change as soon as possible

Person to contact for further information about administrative change(s):

Name: Robert D. Brown  Title: Professor and Head
Phone: 979-845-1261  Fax: 979-845-3786
Email: rdbrown@tamu.edu

Signatures:

________________________________________  Date
Campus Chief Executive Officer

________________________________________  Date
System Chief Executive Office
(as appropriate)

Governing Board approval date: __________________________
1. Describe briefly the change requested.

We request the word ‘Agriculture’ be removed from the degree currently titled as “Master of Agriculture in Fisheries Science.” We request that the degree be “Master of Fisheries.”

2. Provide a rationale for the proposed change.

The Master of Agriculture degree (M.Agr.) in Fisheries Science is a department-level degree. It is an attractive degree for mid-career professionals who need additional knowledge, but who do not need a Master of Science degree. We have been particularly successful at enrolling these students via distance education, so that they may earn the degree while continuing their employment in natural resource agencies and without disrupting their families by moving to campus.

The reasons for requesting the change in the title of this degree are numerous. The College of Agriculture at Texas A&M University changed its name to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences many years ago to better reflect the types of students it teaches and the types of degrees it offers. The students enrolled in this degree do not come from agricultural backgrounds. They come from natural resources or biology/zooology backgrounds. The new title of the degree would better reflect the fisheries science nature of the education these students receive. Thus, more of students with natural resources and/or fisheries backgrounds would be attracted to this degree, and, importantly, the title would better reflect the education the students receive for their current or potential employers.

This is one of four Master of Agriculture degrees being submitted for title changes. Many other Master of Agriculture Degrees in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are not being proposed for title changes, in that those degree are in fact agricultural degrees. Thus their titles accurately reflect the nature of the education the students in those programs receive.

3. Include an assessment of its effect on the administrative unit(s) involved and on the instruction as whole. If a unit is being renamed, will program names need to be changed? If so, submit a separate nonsubstantive program request for each change.

The proposed degree name change will not have any effects on the administrative units involved or the institution as a whole.

4. Summarize implications for classes, distribution of personnel, availability of facilities, and availability of equipment.

The proposed change will have minimal effects on classes, personnel, facilities or equipment since this degree has been available previously for students on campus and at a distance.

5. Give information regarding any additional costs or savings.

Catalogue listings and department brochures will require little modification at a small cost.
Non-Substantive Administrative Change Request

NAME OF INSTITUTION  Texas A&M University

CHANGE REQUEST That the title of the degree currently titled “Master of Agriculture in Recreation and Resources Development” be changed to “Masters in Recreation and Resources Development”

Display how administrative unit(s) and program(s) would appear on the Coordinating Board program inventory; include Texas CIP code designation(s). Administrative Unit codes will be supplied.

Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences
Recreation and Resources Development - 31.0101.00

Proposed date for implementation of administrative change Fall 2003

Person to be contacted for further information about administrative change(s):

Name: Joe O’Leary  Title: Professor and Head
Phone: 979-845-7324  Fax: 979-845-0446
Email: j-oleary@tamu.edu

Signatures:

__________________________________________  __________________________
Campus Chief Executive Officer  Date

__________________________________________  __________________________
System Chief Executive Office
(as appropriate)  Date

Governing Board approval date:
1. Describe briefly the change requested.

We request the word ‘Agriculture’ be removed from the degree currently titled “Master of Agriculture in Recreation and Resources Development.” We request that the degree be renamed “Master of Recreation and Resources Development.”

2. Provide a rationale for the proposed change.

The Master of Agriculture degree (M.Agr.) in Recreation and Resources Development is a department-level degree. It is an attractive degree for mid-career professionals who need additional knowledge, but who do not need a Master of Science degree. This has been a degree of particular interest to those employed in the public and private leisure arena and the growing nature-tourism business in Texas. Some students enroll via distance education, so that they may earn the degree while continuing their employment and without disrupting their families.

The reasons for requesting the change in the title of this degree are numerous. The College of Agriculture at Texas A&M University changed its name to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1989 to better reflect the types of students it teaches and the types of degrees it offers. The students enrolled in this degree do not come from agricultural backgrounds. They come from recreation and tourism backgrounds. The new title of the degree would better reflect the nature of the education these students receive. Thus, more students with these backgrounds would be attracted to this degree, and, importantly, the title would better reflect the education the students receive for their current or potential employers.

This is one of four Master of Agriculture degrees being submitted for title changes. Other Master of Agriculture degrees in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are not being proposed for title changes, because those degree are in fact agricultural degrees. Thus their titles accurately reflect the nature of the education the students in those programs receive.

3. Include an assessment of its effect on the administrative unit(s) involved and on the instruction as whole. If a unit is being renamed, will program names need to be changed? If so, submit a separate nonsubstantive program request for each change.

The proposed degree name change will not have any effects on the administrative units involved or the institution as a whole.

4. Summarize implications for classes, distribution of personnel, availability of facilities, and availability of equipment.

The proposed change will have minimal effects on classes, personnel, facilities or equipment since this degree has been available previously for students on campus and has Coordinating Board approval for being offered via distance education.

5. Give information regarding any additional costs or savings.

Catalogue listings and department brochures will require modification. Costs will be minimal.
Non-Substantive Administrative Change Request

NAME OF INSTITUTION  Texas A&M University

CHANGE REQUEST That the title of the degree currently titled "Master of Agriculture in Natural Resources Development" be changed to "Master of Natural Resources Development"

Display how administrative unit(s) and program(s) would appear on the Coordinating Board program inventory; include Texas CIP code designation(s). Administrative Unit codes will be supplied.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Interdisciplinary Degree Program
Natural Resources Development – 03.0101.00

Proposed date for implementation of administrative change Fall 2003

Person to be contacted for further information about administrative change(s):

Name: Edward A. Hiler
Phone: 979-845-4747
Email: e-hiler@tamu.edu
Title: Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences and Director, Texas Agricultural Station
FAX: 979-862-1697

Name: Robert D. Brown
Phone: 979-845-1261
Email: rdbrown@tamu.edu
Title: Director, Institute of Renewable Natural Resources
Fax: 979-845-3786

Signatures:

________________________________________  Date
Campus Chief Executive Officer

________________________________________  Date
System Chief Executive Office
(as appropriate)

Governing Board approval date:
1. Describe briefly the change requested.

We request the word ‘Agriculture’ be removed from the degree currently titled “Master of Agriculture in Natural Resources Development.” We request that the degree be renamed “Master of Natural Resources Development.”

2. Provide a rationale for the proposed change.

The Master of Agriculture degree (M.Agr.) in Natural Resources Development is a college-level interdisciplinary degree. It is an attractive degree for mid-career professionals who need additional knowledge, but who do not need a Master of Science degree. We have been particularly successful at enrolling these students via distance education, so that they may earn the degree while continuing their employment in natural resource agencies and without disrupting their families by moving to campus.

The reasons for requesting the change in the title of this degree are numerous. The College of Agriculture at Texas A&M University changed its name to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1989 to better reflect the types of students it teaches and the types of degrees it offers. The students enrolled in this degree do not come from agricultural backgrounds. They come from natural resources backgrounds. The new title of the degree would better reflect the nature of the education these students receive. Thus, more students with natural resources backgrounds would be attracted to this degree and, importantly, the title would better reflect the education the students receive for their current or potential employers.

This is one of four Master of Agriculture degrees being submitted for title changes. Other Master of Agriculture Degrees in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are not being proposed for title changes, because those degrees are in fact agricultural degrees. Thus their titles accurately reflect the nature of the education the students in those programs receive.

3. Include an assessment of its effect on the administrative unit(s) involved and on the instruction as whole. If a unit is being renamed, will program names need to be changed? If so, submit a separate nonsubstantive program request for each change.

The proposed degree name change will not have any effects on the administrative units involved or the institution as a whole.

4. Summarize implications for classes, distribution of personnel, availability of facilities, and availability of equipment.

The proposed change will have minimal effects on classes, personnel, facilities or equipment since this degree has been available previously for students on campus and has Coordinating Board approval to be offered through distance education.

5. Give information regarding any additional costs or savings.

Catalogue listings and department brochures will require modification. Costs will be minimal.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Robert Brown, Professor and Head, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences  
Dr. Joseph O’Leary, Professor and Head, Dept. of Recreation, Parks and Tourism

FROM: David Wm. Reed, Chair  
COALS Graduate Program Council

SUBJECT: Degree Name Changes

The COALS Graduate Program Council discussed the name changes relative to M.Agr. Degrees currently offered in your respective departments.

The GPC is concerned with using the term “Science” in professional degrees, such as the proposed “Master of Wildlife Science” and “Master of Fisheries Science”. This could lead to confusion with the “Master of Science” degree, or some may interpret the use of the word “Science” to imply that is a M.S. degree.

It is the COALS GPC’s position that the word “Science” should not be used in any professional degree title.

Therefore, the COALS GPC can support the name changes of the four degrees if the term “Science” is stricken from those degree names in which it appears. (e.g. Master of Wildlife Science, and Master of Fisheries Science, or some wording that does not use Science, such as Master of Wildlife Studies).

As an editorial correction, the document gives the current degree as “Master of Agriculture in Wildlife Science”, with the quotes implying that this is the entire degree name. This is incorrect. The Graduate Catalog list the names of all valid degrees and the degree name is “Master of Agriculture”. The discipline name is the major or degree program. Thus, if you want to use quotes the current degree should be referred to as “Master of Agriculture” in Wildlife Science, or some such wording.

The revised proposal must be routed through Dr. Bazer and to Dr. Giardino. Dr. Giardino must receive the proposal by November 10 to make the agenda for the November Graduate Council meeting. The proposal must appear on the November agenda if it is to appear
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in the 2004-2005 Graduate Catalog. If this deadline is a problem, contact Suzie Brynildsen, and I am sure she will work with you.

xc: Dr. Rick Giardino, Dean of Graduate Studies
    Dr. Fuller Bazer, Executive Associate Dean, COALS
    Dr. Del Gatlin, GPC Rep, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences