November 24, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Robert Webb
Office of Graduate Studies

THROUGH: Dr. David Reed
Graduate Council

THROUGH: Dr. Ronnie L. Edwards
Professor and Associate Head, Animal Science Department

FROM: Kerri B. Harris
Director, Center for Food Safety
Associate Professor, Department of Animal Science

SUBJECT: Graduate Certificate in Food Safety

This memo serves as our request to add a graduate certificate entitled “Food Safety” to the official university graduate catalog.

Establishment of the “Graduate Certificate in Food Safety” is being developed to serve graduate students across the University, but primarily those with degrees in Animal Science or Food Science. However, all graduate students at Texas A&M University would be eligible to complete the certificate requirements. Completion of the certification program will ensure that these students have the basic skill set required by many employers and will help give these students a competitive advantage.

The certificate program includes existing courses, and does not require the development of new courses, and it does not require additional resources. Careers in the food industry are extremely competitive, and this certificate would provide these students an opportunity to distinguish themselves from other students by demonstrating this area of specialization. The same courses can be taken without a certificate; however, the certificate is an added benefit and will allow Texas A&M to provide a much needed recognition in this knowledge area.
Texas A&M University
Department Request for a New Certificate Program
Graduate **** Professional

1. This certificate request is submitted by the Department of Animal Science.

2. Complete Title of Certificate Graduate Certificate in Food Safety.

3. Paragraph for catalog:
The Graduate Certificate in Food Safety is designed for graduate students interested in food microbiology, HACCP, sanitation, regulatory affairs, and quality control or assurance. The core courses provide advanced educational needs to ensure students are prepared to meet the demands of careers in these specialized areas. This program requires 12 semester hours of designated courses. Inquires should be directed to the Department of Animal Science.

4. Is the certificate in a disciplinary area where Texas A&M University already offers degrees? Yes X No

If no, TAMU may not have the authority from the state to offer such a certificate. Please consult with the Provost’s Office.

5. How many hours are in the certificate? 12

If 15 or less, approval beyond the President is generally not needed. If the certificate is 16-29 hours and in a discipline where the University already offers a degree, notification of the Coordinating Board and Board of Regents is required. If the certificate is over 15 hours and in an area where Texas A&M University doesn’t already offer degrees, state approval may be needed.

6. Is the certificate potentially going to be offered as a stand-alone certificate program to students at other locations than the Texas A&M University Campus? Yes No X

Answer yes, if the program is offered in Texas, out of state, or out of country. If yes, then after the President approves the certificate, the Provost’s Office needs to notify the Board of Regents, the Coordinating Board, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. If SACS is not notified, the students taking the certificate as a stand-alone program may not qualify for Federal financial aid. TAMU is also required to notify SACS of any specific location to which a certificate program is offered to multiple students. If you are offering a certificate program to a location Texas, the state also requires us to notify potentially affect institutions, which have competing programs, ahead of time.

7. Is the certificate program going to be available through Distance Education? Yes No X

If yes, then again, SACS will need to be notified.

Approval recommended by:

[Signatures and dates]

Submitted to Coordinating Board by:

[Signature and date]

[Signature and date] Effective Date
The following paragraph could be included in the graduate catalog:

The **Graduate Certificate in Food Safety** is designed for graduate students interested in food microbiology, HACCP, sanitation, regulatory affairs, and quality control or assurance. The core courses provide advanced educational needs to ensure students are prepared to meet the demands of careers in these specialized areas. This program requires 12 semester hours of designated courses. Inquires should be directed to the Department of Animal Science.

The Graduate Certificate in Food Safety will be a 12-credit program consisting of four of any of the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANSC/FSTC 657</td>
<td>Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System: <em>Examination of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles specifically related to meat and poultry; microbiological and process overviews; good manufacturing practices (GMP) and standard operating procedures (SOP) development; team-building and implementation into industry operations.</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DASC/FSTC 606</td>
<td>Microbiology of Foods: <em>Nature and function of beneficial and defect-producing bacteria in foods; food-borne illness, effects of processing, storage and distribution; techniques for isolation and identification from foods.</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSC 637</td>
<td>Food Safety: Policy, Regulations, and Issues: <em>The course is designed to explore the complexities of the regulations governing the production of foods of animal origin in the United States, and the requirements for countries importing products into the United States. Federal, state and local agencies and requirements will be addressed</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSC/FSTC 697</td>
<td>Applied Microbiology for Foods of Animal Origin: <em>Processing, Sanitation and Sanitary Design: Application of basic food microbiology knowledge and principles to food production processes and products; sources of microbiological contamination and their impact on food safety and spoilage; application of sanitary design and validation; testing and auditing to monitor and trouble-shoot the process.</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIBS 615</td>
<td>Food Hygiene: <em>The clinical description, pathogenesis, diagnosis, source, epidemiology and prevention of food borne</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIBS 618</td>
<td><em>Food Toxicology:</em> &lt;br&gt;The study of food additives, chemical and microbial contaminants, and naturally occurring toxins associated with foods.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIBS 619</td>
<td><em>Food Toxicology II.</em> &lt;br&gt;Public health implications of toxic factors in foods, their source, nature, occurrence and distributions; emphasis on mycotoxins including their isolation, detection, identification and toxicology; study of state-of-the-art food safety research techniques.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please let me know what else we may need to provide to start the process of getting this graduate certificate program established.
From: "Leon Russell" <LRUSSELL@cvm.tamu.edu>
To: "Ronnie L Edwards" <r-edwards@neo.tamu.edu>, "Gary Acuff" <gacuff@tamu.e...
CC: "Susie Brynildsen" <SBrynildsen@vpmail.tamu.edu>
Date: Friday, December 05, 2008 3:13 PM
Subject: Re: Food Safety Certificate
Attachments: Food Safety Certificate.pdf

** High Priority **

Dr. Kerri B. Harris

Dear Kerri:

I agree and support the attached "Graduate Certificate in Food Safety".

Sincerely,

Leon Russell,
Professor

>>> "Kerri B. Harris" <khrisses@tamu.edu> 12/5/2008 2:57 PM >>>
Dr. Russell,
Attached please find the revised request for a Graduate Certificate in Food Safety. I added the three course that we discussed. Please respond to all if this revision meets your approval.
Thank you,
Kerri
From: "Evelyn Castiglioni" <ECASTIGLIONI@cvm.tamu.edu>
To: "Leon Russell" <LRUSSELL@cvm.tamu.edu>, "Skip Landis" <SLandis@cvm.tamu....
CC: "Suzie Brynildsen" <SBrynildsen@vprmail.tamu.edu>
Date: Friday, December 05, 2008 3:23 PM
Subject: Re: Food Safety Certificate

I also support the revised document that Dr. Russell attached. It includes additional courses.

>>> Leon Russell 12/5/2008 3:10 PM >>>
Dr. Kerri B. Harris

Dear Kerri:

I agree and support the attached "Graduate Certificate in Food Safety".

Sincerely,

Leon Russell,
Professor

>>> "Kerri B. Harris" <kharris@tamu.edu> 12/5/2008 2:57 PM >>>
Dr. Russell,
Attached please find the revised request for a Graduate Certificate in Food Safety. I added the three course that we discussed.
Please respond to all if this revision meets your approval.
Thank you,
Kerri