GRADUATE COUNCIL REPORT
30 August 2007

Graduate Council approve the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (COALS) request for graduate degree name changes in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications.
MEMORANDUM

TO:        Dr. Rick Giardino, Dean
            Office of Graduate Studies

THROUGH:   Dr. Gene Nelson, Executive Associate Dean
            College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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

SUBJECT:   AGED to ALEC Name Change

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (COALS) Graduate Program Council unanimously recommends the following name changes for graduate degrees in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications:

From Master of Science in Agricultural Education to Master of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications

From Master of Education in Agricultural Education changed to Master of Education in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications

From Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Education changed to Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications

From Doctor of Education in Agricultural Education changed to Doctor of Education in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
PROPOSED NONSUBSTANTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Changes Requested:

Change the name of the graduate major from Agricultural Education to Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications.

The proposed changes impact four of the five degree programs offered in the department:

- Master of Science in Agricultural Education changed to Master of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
- Master of Education in Agricultural Education changed to Master of Education in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
- Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Education changed to Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
- Doctor of Education in Agricultural Education changed to Doctor of Education in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications

The Master of Agriculture degree in Agricultural Development is an interdepartmental degree program and will retain the current name.

The requested graduate degree name change does not affect existing resources nor does it require additional resources. Therefore, the change is submitted as a non-substantive request. The change does not require modifications in the department’s vision and strategic plan, but more accurately reflects the current mission of the department.

2. Rationale:

Our department was approved for a name change from Agricultural Education to Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications in March, 2006. The rationale for the departmental name change included our expanded focus on additional agricultural disciplines to meet the changing needs of students and society. This updated focus is also true of our graduate programs.

Within the context of agriculture, students choose to develop their scholarship in these areas: change theory and processes, learning and cognition, planning and needs assessment, communication theory and practice, leadership education theory and applications, instructional design and delivery, evaluation and performance measures, and research, measurement, and analysis. Professionals with graduate degrees work in a variety of settings including agricultural communications, distance education, Extension
education, organization and community leadership, teacher education, and international agricultural education. We would like for the graduate degree to reflect the diversity of specializations available within our discipline.

3. Effect on the Administrative Unit and on the Institution:

From a graduate student recruitment standpoint, the current name causes confusion for prospective students who are searching for the major to match the department name. Potential employers often question graduates who are working in the broader disciplines about their academic training, assuming they are only suited for teaching and Extension positions. We anticipate that the name change will positively impact our national reputation and rankings by having the graduate program more closely aligned with our teaching, research, and outreach/service programs. We anticipate attracting more diverse faculty for hiring purposes.

4. Implications for Classes, Personnel, Facilities and Equipment:

The proposed name changes will have no effect on classes taught, distribution or personnel, availability of facilities, or availability of equipment. The prefix for our graduate courses was changed in 2006 to ALEC instead of AGED.

5. Cost Savings:

The proposed name changes will not incur any additional costs to the unit. No cost savings will be generated by the changes.