PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE: Converting the graduate options in Food Science (FS) and Human Nutrition (HN) into concentrations.

SPONSORS: Nicki Engeseth (244-6788; engeseth@illinois.edu) and Tim Garrow (333-8455; tagarrow@illinois.edu). Questions pertaining to the proposed FS concentration should be directed to Dr. Nicki Engeseth, whereas questions regarding the proposed HN concentration should be directed to Dr. Tim Garrow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: At present we confer one graduate degree in FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION, however, students choose to follow either a Food Science (FS) or Human Nutrition (HN) option and these options differ substantially in required coursework. This proposal outlines our desire to convert our "options" into "concentrations", the latter as defined by the Graduate College (http://www.grad.uiuc.edu/policies/concentrations.htm). Our proposed graduate concentrations in FS and HN can be found in Appendix I.

JUSTIFICATION: Many assume that food science and nutrition are highly related disciplines, but in reality these academic fields differ substantially in both formal training and career opportunities. Our graduate students have always expressed concern that their degree title, FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION, suggest expertise in both fields and yet most only obtain training in one. Arranging our graduate programs into concentrations will be accompanied by transcript notation of the student's academic focus (FS or HN), which in a small but important way will document the specific training for those seeking to verify our graduate's educational background. It is important to note that only one concentration must be completed to earn a graduate degree, although a student who desires training in both FS and HN can complete the requirements of both concentrations with careful planning and advisor support.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: The conversion of our graduate degree options to concentrations will not have any budget or staff implications. All new FSHN 595 courses have been developed. There is no reason to believe the creation of concentrations will increase enrollment in our graduate programs. The FSHN faculty discussed this curriculum change in detail, and voted strongly in its favor. In addition, current FSHN graduate students and alumni, and well as our External Advisory Committee support the conversion of our degree options to concentrations and the specific course work proposed. There will be no effect on course enrollment in other departments because our course requirements outside the department are not changing. There will be no impact of this change on the University Library, computer use, laboratory use, or equipment needs.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: None

CLEARANCES:
Nicki Engeseth, co-Associate Head for Graduate Programs, FSHN

Tim Garrow, co-Associate Head for Graduate Programs, FSHN

Faye Dong, Department Head, FSHN

Laurie Kramer, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, ACES

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2009

Kelly Tappenden, Associate Dean, Graduate College

Full proposal available for review in the Senate Office.