



**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**

## M E M O R A N D U M

Date: December 1, 2009

To: Academic Senate Executive Committee

From: Integrated Curriculum Committee

Re: Elimination of the Wastewater Utilization MS Option in Natural Resources

The Program Prioritization process resulted in a number of programs being placed in Category I, Enhance, and Category IV, Restructure or Eliminate. On 23 March 2009 Interim Provost Snyder released his recommendations regarding the future of all of the programs in Category IV and some of those in Category I. These programs were requested by the temporary Academic Planning Committee (APC) to submit a Report responding to the prioritization categorization and the Provost's recommendations to the newly formed Integrated Curriculum Committee (ICC) by 14 Sept. 2009.

This fall, the ICC assumed responsibility for completing the Post-prioritization process. The committee followed the process outlined by last year's ad hoc APC (links to pertinent documents can be found at the end of this memo). The ICC's Academic Master Planning Subcommittee (AMP) was assigned to complete an in-depth review of the program proposals and responses, and make a recommendation to the ICC for programs in Prioritization Category 4 using a university-wide perspective. To accomplish this, the AMP reviewed the recommendations of the prioritization task force, deans, and the provost; program responses to the prioritization report; program proposals requested by the APC and all pertinent documents submitted; and met with a program representative to discuss the proposals and recommendations. The AMP recommendation was then developed and referred to the ICC for discussion.

The AMP/ICC used the following guidelines when formulating the recommendation provided below.

- Begin with the Prioritization Task Force recommendation as the starting point.
- Review Prioritization criteria: alignment with HSU mission and vision, program quality, cost effectiveness, and program demand

## Attachment to Resolution #16-09/10-EX

- Determine whether the program response provides a compelling case for overriding the recommendations of Prioritization Task Force, Deans, and Provost.
- Consider the ramifications for other programs of overriding Category 4 recommendations, given the original goal of prioritization to change the campus program mix, combined with the current budget crisis and the need to reduce Academic Affairs' base budget.

As a result of Program Prioritization, the Provost recommended the critical review of low-enrolled graduate options in Natural Resources with eye toward elimination of the Wastewater Utilization MS Option. In a September 8, 2009 report to the ICC, Jim Howard, Dean of CNRS, agreed with the elimination of the option also. In an undated memo, Gary Hendrickson, Chair of Fisheries Biology, states that although the faculty would like to see the program continue, they will not argue against elimination.

The Integrated Curriculum Committee agrees with the recommendation to eliminate this option.

### **Links to relevant documents:**

Post-prioritization process:

<http://www.humboldt.edu/~aavp/Prioritization/Resolution12-08-09-EPAttachmentPASSEDApproved.pdf>

Provost's recommendations:

<http://www.humboldt.edu/~aavp/Prioritization/Provost%20Reccommendation.pdf>

Dean's Recommendations: can be found on the Prioritization web site:

<http://www.humboldt.edu/~aavp/Prioritization.html>

The Natural Resources Grad Coordinator Response (PR-024) can be found on the ICC Sharepoint Site at <https://its-sharepoint.humboldt.edu/sites/dold/icc/Shared%20Documents/General%20Resources/Post%20Prioritization%20Reports/PR-024%20Wasterwater%20Letter%20to%20ICC.pdf>

**Appendix:** The relevant sections of the Prioritization, Dean's, and Provost's reports (cut and pasted from the documents referenced above):

### **Natural Resources (Low enrolled Grad options)**

Prioritization Report: 1\*: Fisheries and Wildlife are currently impacted and would benefit from enhancement. 2\*\*: The Forestry option shows growth and should be maintained at current levels. 4\*\*\*: Recommend critical review of low-enrolled options with eye toward elimination (e.g. Range and Soils, Watershed, etc.).

Attachment to Resolution #16-09/10-EX

Dean: Graduate (low enrolled options)- Options in Range and Soils, Watershed, and Wastewater Utilization probably need to be eliminated. This fall they have 3, 3 and 2 majors respectively. The Forestry option is growing and NRPI has been strong in the past and may rebound with new faculty. The argument that the growth in the other areas is hampered by a lack of faculty is no doubt correct but we are probably not going to be adding faculty in all these areas any time soon. I have discussed a possibility of forming a watershed/hydrology option between Forestry/ Geology and Engineering. I think it might be viable but will need some considerable work. **I recommend eliminating options in Range and Soils, Watershed, and Wastewater Utilization.**

Provost: I agree with the Dean that the programs in Range and Soils and Wastewater Utilization be eliminated. Enrollments have been very small for many years. The APC should evaluate this recommendation. Enrollment in the Watershed option has varied, due to faculty turnover according to the Department. However, the Dean is right about the difficulty of adding new faculty in these areas given other priorities. The Departmental response indicates that Watershed, in some form, must form the core for other, high priority programs. I recommend that the Watershed option be eliminated and that the affected departments work with the Dean to incorporate important Watershed components into other options. The APC should evaluate the recommendation.

Natural Resources Graduate Coordinator: "Given the present circumstances, particularly the need for increased efficiencies, we [the faculty in Fisheries Biology] find it difficult to argue against elimination of the program.... [We] choose not to argue" with the proposal to eliminate.