

Program Elimination Proposal: B.S. in Wood Science and Technology.

Summary: The B.S. degree in Wood Science and Technology (WSC) is offered through the School of Forest Resources (SFR). This degree was one of five separate degree programs offered by the School. Enrollment in WSC has been low, despite efforts to recruit additional students. NSFA suspended the B.S. degree in Wood Science and Technology in 2010 and during the interim period, SFR modified elements of this major and another major into a major in Forest Operations, Bioproducts & Bioenergy.

Rationale for elimination of program: The B.S. degree in Wood Science and Technology was one of five separate degree programs offered by the School of Forest Resources; the others being Forestry, Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Forest Operations Science and Forest Ecosystem Science. The variety of degrees reflects the fact that two departments merged less than 7 years ago to form the School of Forest Resources and both former units had separate degree programs. The WSC degree program has been characterized by low enrollment for many years. Enrollment over the past seven years averaged fewer than 12 students and remained fairly steady. Since AY 2005, we have typically conferred fewer than two degrees per year (Table 1. Seven year summary of enrollment and degrees conferred).

Table 1. B.S. Degree in Wood Science and Technology: Enrollment in program and number of degrees conferred annually from AY 2005 to present:

<u>Academic year</u>	<u>Fall enrollment count</u>	<u>No. degrees conferred</u>
AY 2005	9	1
AY 2006	11	1
AY 2007	12	1
AY 2008	15	3
AY 2009	12	2
AY 2010	9	2
AY 2011	5	1
Seven year average	7.3	<2

It is difficult to justify offering a degree option for this small number of students. Therefore, we propose to eliminate the B.S. in WSC and offer students an alternative degree program.

Relationship of the program elimination to institutional mission: Maine is ~90% forested and has a very significant forest products industry. This sector is one of the largest among Maine's manufacturing industries with an economic impact to the state's economy in the billions of dollars annually. Research, education and outreach to this sector are an important part of our land grant mission. Elimination of the B.S. degree in WSC will not impact our current efforts in forestry and forest products research or public service. The University maintains active research programs related to forestry, wood, forest bioproducts, forest-based recreation and forest resources. This includes several research centers and institutes, such as the AEWI, Forest Bioproducts Institute and Center for Research on Sustainable Forests. Despite the importance of this industry to the Maine economy, our degree program in wood science and technology is not attracting significant numbers of students. SFR reviewed their educational programs and

proposed significant modifications in courses, course content and degree programs. Among these changes was combining separate degree programs into a B.S. degree in Forest Operations, Bioproducts & Bioenergy.

Assignment of faculty upon the elimination of degree program: Faculty having expertise in wood science and technology will continue to deliver courses on this topic. These courses contribute to fulfillment of degree requirements in the other degree programs within the School of Forest Resources. Elimination of the B.S. degree in Wood Science and Technology is not linked to the elimination of any current personnel.

Impact of the program elimination on students: Students currently enrolled in the B.S. in Wood Science and Technology will have the option of completing their degree or transferring to the B.S. degree program in Forest Operations, Bioproducts & Bioenergy.

Timetable for program elimination: We wish to eliminate the B. S. in Wood Science and Technology degree program at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 academic year.

Input obtained from meeting and discussion with the appropriate faculty and AFUM: The faculty of SFR has been concerned with the low enrollment in several of their B.S. degree programs. They reviewed their degree programs and merged their five B.S. degree programs into three majors: Forestry; Parks, Recreation & Tourism; and Forest Operations, Bioproducts & Bioenergy. The SFR faculty believes that the latter major will be a suitable alternative for students that previously enrolled in WSC. The curricula for all three revised majors were reviewed by members of the forest products sector, approved by the SFR faculty, and the University of Maine.

Plans to suspend the WSC degree was supported by AFUM representatives and the UM Faculty Senate. The degree elimination proposal was submitted to AFUM on September 28, 2012 for comment. No response was received during the subsequent 4 weeks; suggesting no adverse reaction to this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

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