

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Lindsey, Alexander](#); [Osborne, Jeanne](#)
Cc: [Sutherland, Sue](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Griffiths, Rob](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Karcher, Doug](#)
Subject: Proposal to change the name of the Sustainable Plant Systems UG major
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025 11:35:06 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Alex and Jeanne:

The proposal from the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science to change the name of the Sustainable Plant Systems undergraduate major to the Horticulture and Crop Science undergraduate major was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on October 22, 2025. The major will continue to lead to the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

No additional level of internal review/approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next Annual Activities Report to the University Senate (July 2026).

The Office of the University Registrar will work you with any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Sue Sutherland (.43), or me.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

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From: [Osborne, Jeanne](#)
To: [Smith, Randy](#)
Cc: [Reed, Katie](#); [Karcher, Doug](#); [Lindsey, Alexander](#); [Barker, David](#); [Klooster, Wendy](#)
Subject: Requesting CAA Approval for a name change - Sustainable Plant Systems BS AGR to Horticulture and Crop Science BS AGR
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 1:32:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Cover Letter - HCS degree name change.pdf](#)

Dear Dr. Smith,

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is requesting Council on Academic Affairs approval for a name change of the undergraduate major 'Sustainable Plant Systems' (SUSTPLT) to 'Horticulture and Crop Science' (HRTCROP) leading to a BS AGR, effective AU26.

This name change proposal was initiated after consultation with students, alumni, and departmental personnel, and will provide greater recognition by prospective students as well as industry partners. The proposed name for the major also aligns with the departmental name as well as departmental branding initiatives. Additionally, this proposed change reflects the historical generation of this major which resulted from combining the Landscape Horticulture (formerly Horticulture) major and the Crop Science major into 1 major named Sustainable Plant Systems in 2012 as part of the Quarters to Semesters restructuring.

There are no changes to the current curriculum or structure of the major as part of this proposal, and no current students will be impacted.

This proposal has been approved by the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science Academic Affairs committee and was unanimously (and enthusiastically) approved by the CFAES Committee on Academic Affairs. Please let me know if any additional information is needed in support of this request.

Sincerely,

Jeanne



Jeanne M. Osborne

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'Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change' (Bob Kerrey)



September 12, 2025

To the CFAES Committee on Academic Affairs (COAA):

On behalf of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science (HCS), I am writing to formally request a name change to our flagship undergraduate major from “Sustainable Plant Systems” to “Horticulture and Crop Science”. This change reflects a strategic alignment with our department’s identity and addresses persistent challenges in student recruitment and engagement.

Prospective students have consistently reported difficulty locating our program under the current Sustainable Plant Systems title. The proposed name, Horticulture and Crop Science, aligns directly with our department name, course prefixes, and branding, thereby improving visibility and recognition. We believe this change will foster a stronger sense of belonging among undergraduate students and reinforce their connection to the HCS community.

Importantly, this request pertains solely to the program name. There are no changes to the curriculum or structure of our six existing specializations.

This proposal follows extensive consultation with current students, alumni, faculty, staff, and graduate students, and subsequent faculty discussion and approval. Feedback was overwhelmingly supportive of moving away from the Sustainable Plant Systems name in favor of one that better reflects our academic and professional focus.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your support in implementing this meaningful update.

Respectfully,

Douglas Karcher
Professor and Chair