

**TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**  
**Summary Notes/Minutes**  
**Agricultural Business & Management Field of Study Advisory**  
**Committee Meeting**  
**1200 East Anderson Lane, Board Room**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**May 13, 2019, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**May 14, 2019, 2019, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

*The webcasts of these meetings are available at the following links:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocGF7S4dQZ8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiLB-pCpco4&t=1286s>

### **1. Call to order and introductions**

Allen Michie called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

The following committee members were present:

Vance Christie, Weatherford College  
Christi Esquivel, Blinn College  
Roger Hanagriff, Texas A&M University-Kingsville  
Shyam Nair, Sam Houston State University  
Savannah Rugg, Austin Community College  
Pratheesh Sudhakaran, Texas State University  
Brandi Terry, Cisco College  
Andrew Wright, Angelo State University

Coordinating Board Staff present:

Allen Michie, Program Director

### **2. Consideration of appointing a recording secretary**

Savannah Rugg volunteered to serve as recording secretary and was elected by acclamation.

### **3. Consideration of election of co-chairs**

Christi Esquivel (Blinn College) was nominated to serve as co-chair from two-year institutions and was elected by acclamation. Roger Hanagriff (Texas A&M University-Kingsville) was nominated from four-year institutions and was elected by acclamation.

### **4. Public testimony**

No one was available for public testimony.

## **5. Break for consultation between Coordinating Board staff and Co-Chairs**

The committee recessed for 15 minutes.

## **6. Overview of Field of Study rules and mission – Dr. Allen Michie**

Michie provided an overview of the Fields of Study (FOS) statute, how it is part of a wider range of transfer success initiatives, and how it contributes to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's *60x30TX* strategic plan.

Michie stated the goals of the meeting:

- Review curricula from programs at representative two- and four-year institutions
- Review approved courses in the *Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM)*
- Decide which lower division courses are necessary for success in upper division courses in a major
- Adjust course objectives and descriptions as necessary
- Balance student freedom with institution priorities
- Create a guaranteed pathway to the degree and minimize the number of excess hours that students take

Michie answered questions about FOS and the approval process.

## **7. Discussion and consideration of the Agricultural Business & Management Field of Study curriculum**

Hanagriff said that there are four agenda items to consider: What gets students ready for the major? What courses from the list of courses that are already being taught should be included in the FOS? What courses are missing from what is already being taught that should be in the FOS? What courses should be in the final FOS?

Sudhakaran distributed a list of six courses required at Texas State University in order to start a discussion. He stated that the FOS would need a course in Pre-Calculus or Calculus.

Nair asked if differential Calculus was necessary for Agribusiness. Hanagriff recommended Business Calculus. Nair said that Calculus was certainly necessary for Agricultural Economics programs. Christie recommended a choice between Accounting courses, and he said that Math for Business and Social Science (MATH 1324) is the best fit across the board. The committee discussed various transfer issues with Math and Accounting courses.

Hanagriff proposed offering a choice between several courses so students could go between Animal Studies, Horticulture, Agricultural Mechanics, Agronomy, and Agribusiness programs. Terry suggested grouping the science programs together within the options. Michie explained the pros and cons of offering options within the FOS.

Esquivel said that we cannot assume students know a lot about agriculture just because they are majoring in it. Some institutions have 1 semester credit hour (SCH) career exploration

courses for this reason, and Esquivel said he would like to see a 3 SCH course offering a broad overview of the whole industry.

Equival asked if Managerial Accounting would be better for the FOS than an Accounting course. Wright responded that Financial Accounting is a prerequisite for some other courses, and students often say they wish they had taken Managerial Accounting before Financial Accounting.

Sudhakaran said that some kind of Math and Accounting is essential, along with a computer course. Nair agreed, noting that the class should include Excel skills. Christi said that Computers in Agriculture and Business Computer Applications are similar courses and use the same textbooks, but the Agriculture class tends to have more emphasis on Excel.

The committee discussed the ideal length of the FOS, if courses could be outside of the AGRI area, and how electives can be transferred.

Esquivel proposed changing the 1 SCH Agricultural Industry course to a 3 SCH course that provides an overview of the entire industry.

Rugg and Write argued for a small and more basic FOS without creating new courses so that the FOS could be broadly applicable across institutions.

The committee discussed Marketing of Agricultural Products (AGRI 1325) and considered creating a new ACGM course. Michie reviewed the process for creating new courses and said it is usually easier to adjust the description and learning objectives of existing courses.

The committee then discussed the merits of individual courses in the ACGM to add to the FOS. The consensus was not to put in a writing or communications course, as they are not always required by university programs and are sometimes offered at the 3000 level.

The consensus was not to include Statistics, as it is typically taught at the upper division.

The committee discussed Agriculture and Mechanics and whether it needs a separate track within the FOS.

A draft of the FOS was produced with the following courses:

AGRI 2317: Introduction to Agricultural Economics  
ACCT 2301: Principles of Financial Accounting  
AGRI 1325: Marketing of Agricultural Products  
BCIS 1305 or AGRI 1309: Computers in Agriculture  
ACCT 2303: Principles of Managerial Accounting

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

## **Day 2: May 14, 2019**

### **1. Call to order**

Esquivel and Hanagriff called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

### **2. Discussion and consideration of the Agricultural Business & Management Field of Study curriculum**

There was discussion of whether to include Biology I as a choice with Chemistry I. The committee considered what upper-division courses use Biology and/or Chemistry as prerequisites.

Wright proposed two tracks in the FOS, one for Animal Business and one for Plant & Soil Business. The consensus was that this would be confusing for students, and freshmen often do not immediately know what track they will choose. The decision was to cut Biology I from the list of choices and make the choice be Animal Science and General Chemistry I for the Life & Physical Science section of the core curriculum.

Sudhakaran said that students will need a basic knowledge of Chemistry. Wright argued for Statistics, but Esquivel said small community colleges may not be able to staff Statistics.

The committee discussed an additional Math requirement, particularly Statistical Methods (MATH 1342) or Calculus for Business and Social Sciences (MATH 1325). The length of the FOS with an additional Math requirement provoked discussion of cutting a course. There was discussion of the implications for universities of a large FS that might force institutions to remove an upper-division course to make room for the FOS courses. The committee considered whether a computer course could be moved to the Component Area Option section of the core curriculum and whether there is room in university programs to use an FOS course as an upper-division elective option.

Michie asked the committee to specify the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes to which the proposed FOS would apply. The consensus was that General Agriculture is a large and substantially different field that would require a separate FOS Advisory Committee. The committee also deferred to the Interdisciplinary Studies FOS Advisory Committee for an FOS that would apply to students seeking teaching certification in related fields. The consensus was that the proposed FOS would apply to all Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) programs in Agricultural Business & Management (CIP code 01.0101), Agribusiness/Agricultural Business Operations (CIP code 01.0102), and Farm/Farm and Ranch Management (CIP code 10.0104). It would not apply to programs in Agriculture (CIP code 01.0000), Agricultural Economics (CIP 01.0103), Agricultural Production Operations (CIP 01.0301), General Applied Horticulture/Horticultural Operations (CIP 01.0601), and Agricultural Communication/Journalism (CIP 01.0802). It also would not include any programs in Natural Resources and Conservation (CIP 03).

**3. Overview of the timeline for public comments and Field of Study approval – Dr. Allen Michie**

Michie stated that the proposed FOS would go out for a 30-day public comment period. Committee members would be given a copy of each comment for a response. If changes are made, the revised FOS would go out for a second 30-day comment period. The FOS curriculum would go before the Coordinating Board’s Committee on Academic and Workforce Success committee and the full Board for final approval.

Michie said that there could be a second committee meeting, depending upon the number and nature of the public comments received and whether committee members indicate that they want to make significant changes.

**4. Consideration of authorization of Co-Chairs to approve the meeting notes, make non-substantive edits to documents, and conduct assorted committee business relating to submission of the Field of Study to the Coordinating Board for approval**

A motion was made to authorize the co-chairs to approve the final meeting minutes and carry other related business for the FOS approval process before the Board. The motion passed.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

**Final Proposed Field of Study:**

<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>SCH</b>
Mathematics for Business and Social Science	MATH 1324	3
Choose one of the following: I. Introductory Animal Science (lecture + lab) II: A. Introductory Animal Science (lecture) B. Introductory Animal Science (lab)	I. AGRI 1419 II: A. AGRI 1319 B. AGRI 1119	4
Choose one of the following: I. General Chemistry I (lecture + lab) II: A. General Chemistry I (lecture) B. General Chemistry I (lab)	I. CHEM 1411 II: A. CHEM 1311 B. CHEM 1111	4
Principles of Macroeconomics	ECON 2301	3

Choose one of the following: I. Business Computer Applications II. Computers in Agriculture	I. BCIS 1305 II. AGRI 1309	3
Introduction to Agricultural Economics	AGRI 2317	3
Principles of Financial Accounting	ACCT 2301	3
Marketing of Agricultural Products	AGRI 1325	3
Choose one of the following: I: A. Horticulture (lecture + lab) B: 1. Horticulture (lecture) 2. Horticulture (lab) II: A. Agronomy (lecture + lab) B: 1. Agronomy (lecture) 2. Agronomy (lab)	I: A. AGRI 1415 B: 1. AGRI 1315 2. AGRI 1115 II: A. AGRI 1407 B: 1. AGRI 1307 2. AGRI 1107	4
Choose one of the following: I. Elementary Statistical Methods II. Calculus for Business & Social Sciences	I. MATH 1342 II. MATH 1325	3
Principles of Managerial Accounting	ACCT 2302	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36</b>