

March 29, 2012

PROFESSOR JON ROSSINI
Chair, Undergraduate Council

RE: Request to approval closure of all admissions to the major in Textiles and Clothing

Dear Jon,

At the March 16, 2012 meeting, the CA&ES Executive Committee was unanimous in their vote to close admissions to the undergraduate major in Textiles and Clothing, effective fall 2013. To be clear, closing admissions applies to all students and includes closing admissions to:

- Freshman
- Transfers
- Transfer Agreements
- Continuing Students

Students that are currently in the Textiles and Clothing major will be able to take the coursework required for successful completion of the major and will be provided advising support to meet their academic objectives. The specific intention of the CA&ES Executive Committee is to support the current student population in the major as described in the "Proposal for Consolidation of the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and the Division of Textiles and Clothing," dated June 11, 2011. The Undergraduate Council reviewed that document and commented on the proposal on December 12, 2011. In their comments, the Undergraduate Council voiced its support of the merger but noted that support of the merger was not an endorsement of closing the major, which is a separate issue and will be dealt with in another recommendation. Similarly, closure of admissions is a separate issue from consolidation and that recommendation is detailed in this memo.

The attached "Information on Textiles and Clothing" provides background on the planning process and implications. The CA&ES Executive Committee wants to be clear that this is an academic decision. We cannot maintain academic excellence in all areas of the CA&ES while absorbing a \$13 million loss in support dollars. Compromising our academic standing in an effort to maintain all current academic units, programs and majors is not an option. The CA&ES places academic excellence as the highest priority as we move forward with this loss in support. While there is clearly a loss, new opportunities are opened as faculty move into other academic units and new environments. Our academic standing as a college of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences requires that we be mindful of these new opportunities and place ourselves in the strategic position required to benefit from new opportunities.

Of the four faculty remaining after the retirement of the fifth member of the Division, three are moving to the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department and will maintain 100% appointment in the CA&ES. This academic unit meets the needs of these three faculty, while the fourth faculty member has found a very compatible academic unit in L&S.

Collegially,



Chris Calvert, Chair
CA&ES Executive Committee

c: L. Bisson
N. Van Alfen
Y. Hsieh
R. Piedrahita
B. Nakamoto

Attachment

Information on Textiles and Clothing

Recommendation to Close to New Admissions for Fall 2013 and to Discontinue the Major

1. Justification of the proposed action including analysis of costs and benefits to the campus and expected budgetary impact; a statement about the expected impact to enrollment, changes in staffing and space requirements.

The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has undergone a robust planning process initiated to meet \$10.2 million in permanent budget cuts from the 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11 academic years. This budget reduction translated to a reduction of approximately 45 faculty FTE and \$3.8 million in support for CA&ES programs. This does not include an additional \$2.8 million reduction in budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year. The findings of two strategic planning committees comprised of faculty, Executive Committee members and Academic Federation members recommended that certain departments, among them Textiles and Clothing, were too small to maintain excellence in the face of upcoming retirements. Following an upcoming retirement (June 2012), Textiles and Clothing will have had 4 faculty FTE (3 chemical and material scientists and one social scientist). The chemical and material scientists are in the process of consolidating with Biological and Agricultural Engineering and the social scientist has joined the Department of Women and Gender Studies. Without investment in faculty FTE or significant lecturer expenditures, it will not be possible to continue offering the courses needed to support the textiles and clothing major. In 2011, the CA&ES Executive Committee requested that the major be closed to new admissions and Undergraduate Council denied this request. Upon a request for reconsideration, Undergraduate Council agreed to close the major to new freshmen for fall 2012, but the major remained open to new transfer students, TAGs and continuing students wishing to transfer into the major while alternatives might be considered. During summer 2011, the Provost assigned a special committee to explore alternative academic homes for the Textiles and Clothing major. They have recently reported to the Provost that there is not an alternative academic home that can sustain the major with current resource levels. This major has 75 students currently enrolled (16 freshmen, 25 sophomores, 8 juniors and 26 seniors). Since 2003, it has hovered between 72 and 88 students. The current action by the CA&ES Executive Committee calls for closure of Textiles and Clothing to all new admissions effective fall 2013, with discontinuation of the Textiles and Clothing major to be effective as soon as possible. Support for lecturers and staff advisers to the major will be provided by CA&ES and decreased in a step-wise fashion as existing students in the major complete their requirements. When the last student graduates there will no longer be support from CA&ES for the Textiles and Clothing major.

2. A phase-out plan that includes an explicit description of the accommodations to students, faculty, staff, and non-academic appointees.

The phase-out plan is specific to new undergraduate students who will be affected by the discontinuation of the Textiles and Clothing major. New transfer students, TAGs and continuing students wishing to transfer into the major will be accepted into the Textiles and Clothing (TxC) major for Fall 2012 (the current filing cycle). If Undergraduate Council approves the CA&ES Executive Committee request to close to all new students and to discontinue the major, the major will not appear on the on-line application for the 2012 filing cycle. As indicated above, resources

to the major will be decreased in a step-wise fashion as existing students complete their requirements and graduate

3. Explanation of the method of consultation that was employed in the review process with students and faculty members from potentially affected programs and with appropriate college or Senate committees.

This action is in line with recommendations by various committees including the Academic Strategic Planning Committee led by MRC Greenwood and the College Planning Committee, a large faculty committee led by Associate Deans Delany and Hopmans. Many discussions were held between Dean Van Alfen, Associate Dean Hopman, Associate Dean Ullman, the Textiles & Clothing Chair and Faculty Master Adviser, Textiles and Clothing faculty, Biological and Agricultural Engineering faculty and the College Executive Committee. Both the Chair of the CA&ES Undergraduate Majors and Courses Committee (Ken Shackel) and the Staff Consultant (Jo Ann Baca) were consulted. Textiles and Clothing faculty have had consultations with HARCS Dean, Jessie Ann Owens, Associate Dean Diane Ullman, and with the Associate and Assistant Deans for Academic Programs in L&S. A special committee appointed by the Provost has investigated possible alternative academic homes for the major. None of these investigations revealed an alternative home for the major or a source of the resources that would be needed to sustain the major. As soon as appropriate approvals have been completed, the Associate Dean of UAP will inform her counterparts in other undergraduate academic units when the major has been closed to new admissions.

4. Description of the relationship of the proposal to the campus and unit's academic plan.

Three faculty members are in the process of consolidating with the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department and one member has joined the Department of Women and Gender Studies. One faculty member plans to retire. Due to the severe budget cuts experienced by CA&ES, the resources are no longer sustainable for lecturers or advisers. There is not adequate faculty to teach the courses needed to continue the major. The action is in line with recommendations by various committee/task forces appointed by campus administrations and the Dean of CA&ES to envision ways to offer quality programs with less human capital. With the movement of faculty outside the unit, and the retirement of one, this major is viewed as unsustainable.