

October 8, 2010

**ROBERT POWELL**  
Academic Senate

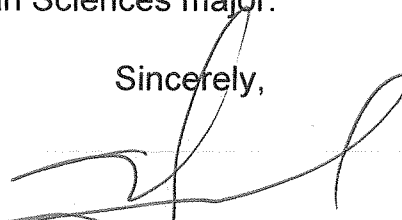
**SUBJECT: Avian Sciences Major**

Dear Bob:

Anita Oberbauer, Chair of Animal Science, has requested that the Avian Sciences major be discontinued. The request has been reviewed and accepted by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Undergraduate Majors and Courses Standing Committee and the Executive Committee. All supporting documentation is enclosed.

I fully support the closure of the Avian Sciences major.

Sincerely,



Neal Van Alfen  
Dean

jb/lf

enclosures

c: Ed DePeters  
Annie King  
Anita Oberbauer  
Ken Shackel  
Diane Ullman  
Jeffrey Williams

August 28, 2010

**NEAL K. VAN ALFEN, Dean**  
College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

The College Executive Committee discussed the request (attached) by Anita Oberbauer, Chair of Animal Science, to close (discontinue) the Avian Sciences major at our meeting on June 23 and July 27, 2010. The Executive Committee also considered the report by the Undergraduate Majors and Courses Standing Committee (attached) that recommended acceptance of the request for discontinuation of the Avian Sciences major program. **The Executive Committee supports the request from the Department of Animal Science and recommendation of Undergraduate Majors and Courses Standing Committee for the discontinuation of the Avian Sciences undergraduate major program.**

The Avian Sciences major is relatively small with less than 15 students. This makes it difficult for course offerings because enrollment is low in some specialized courses. Over the past few years there was also a loss of faculty to teach some of the specialized courses. The Executive Committee also discussed the fact that the Animal Science (ANS) major offers two specializations related to birds. These specializations are 'poultry' and 'avian sciences'. In addition, the Animal Science and Management (ANM) major also offers a 'poultry' specialization. Students interested in avian science have alternatives that already exist within two larger majors administered by the Department of Animal Science. Thus, there is apparent duplication across majors. This duplication has a historical background. With the dissolution of the Department of Avian Sciences, faculty but also undergraduate programs moved to the Department of Animal Science, the later creating duplication of subject matter. It should be noted that birds are also currently discussed in many courses taught in animal science. There are numerous options (specialization within majors and courses) for future undergraduate students interested in studying aspects of avian sciences.

As a member of the Department of Animal Science, I can state that the animal science faculty has discussed the closing of the avian sciences major for many years. Recently, with the loss of avian faculty and the increased number of undergraduate majors in animal science, the faculty decided that it was necessary to focus scarce resources to teaching courses needed for our undergraduate majors including ANS and ANM. In addition, both ANS and ANM currently have specializations in the area of avian sciences. Most importantly undergraduate students interested in studying avian science have options to achieve their goal.

Sincerely,



Edward J. DePeters, Chair  
CA&ES Executive Committee

EJD: sb

cc: Jo Ann Baca  
Annie King  
Ken Shackel  
Anita Oberbauer  
Diane Ullman

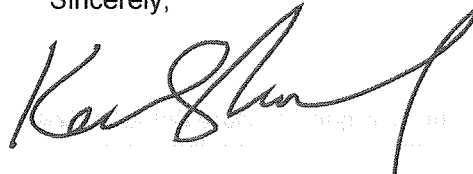
July 13, 2010

**ED DEPETERS**  
**Chair, College Executive Committee**

Dear ED:

The Undergraduate Majors and Courses Standing Committee has reviewed the request for the closure of the **Avian Sciences** major and recommends acceptance.

Sincerely,



Ken Shackel, Chair  
Undergraduate Majors & Courses  
Standing Committee

cc: Diane Ullman  
Jo Ann Baca  
Sharon Berg



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE  
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8571  
(530) 752-1250 (Animal Science)  
(530) 752-0175 (Fax)

May 14, 2010

TO: Ken Shackel, chair of UMAC

FR: A.M.Oberbauer, Ph.D.  
Chair, Department of Animal Science

Re: Discontinuation of the Avian Sciences Major program

Attached please find justification for the Department of Animal Science's decision to close the Avian Sciences major. We have been in contact with Diane Ullman, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Programs, who has consulted with you and Jo Ann Baca. As per the recommendations, we are submitting the proposal to discontinue the major to you and the UMAC committee for review prior to our sending it on to the Executive Committee.

We would appreciate any advice your committee could provide us in the process. Thank you for your assistance and suggestions.

Sincerely Yours,

Anita Oberbauer

**4. 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.**

As soon as appropriate, the Associate Dean of UAP will inform her counterparts in other undergraduate academic units that the major has been discontinued.

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

Discontinuation of the Avian Sciences major is one attempt by the Department of Animal Science to streamline its offerings due to budget cuts, low student enrollment in the major, and elimination of redundancy of effort for faculty and staff. The action is in line with recommendations by various committee/task forces appointed by campus administration and the Dean of CAES to envision ways to offer quality programs with less human capital.

**6. Appended comments of students, faculty, academic non-Senate appointees, and committees.**

At the January 2010 Department of Animal Science faculty meeting, the faculty in the Department of Animal Science voted to discontinue the Avian Sciences major. The discussion was initiated, and the decision supported, by a majority of faculty from the previous Avian Sciences Department. Without Avian Science faculty supporting the existence of the major it was viewed as unsustainable. Faculty are well aware of the scrutiny being placed on small majors. Another consideration was that the Animal Science major has both an avian science specialization and a poultry science specialization and the view was that the topical area would be preserved even if the Avian Sciences major was discontinued. The courses that fulfill the Avian Sciences major also serve to fulfill the specializations within the Animal Science major and will continue to be offered.