Attachment 2
Discussion Agenda Information

- ### Agriculture

Agricultural Economics

PROPOSED: Concurrent B.S. & M.S. Degree Program in the Department of Agricultural Economics

Students may obtain the M.S. in either the thesis or non-thesis options, in either Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must meet the following requirements:
● The student must be seeking a B.S. degree from the Department of Agricultural Economics.
● The student must have completed AGEC 120, AGEC 500, AGEC 505, STAT 325 (or equivalent), and six additional hours of agricultural economics courses. Applicants are encouraged to apply prior to entering their senior year.
● The student's cumulative undergraduate GPA must be at least 3.5.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Applicants should follow the K-State Graduate School application process. The application form can be found on the Department's website. Required elements of the application include:

● The K-State graduate application form, which should be completed on-line with the appropriate application fee.
● A brief cover letter and a 2-page statement of objectives for graduate study.
● Three letters of reference.
● Transcript(s) of all undergraduate work completed at the time of application.
● The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for admission to the graduate program. Applicants without the GRE may be admitted on a probationary basis, but will be required to take the GRE. Applications are evaluated by the Department's Graduate Committee, which will provide a recommendation to the Director of Graduate Studies about an applicant's suitability for the program.

PROGRAM FORMATS AND GUIDELINES: Once admitted to the concurrent B.S./M.S degree program, the student should consult the graduate handbook (http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gscurrent/handbook/) and the Department's guidelines for graduate programs (available at the Department website) for policies regarding supervisory committee, program of study, final examination, etc. The successful applicant should identify a major professor within two semesters of admission to the program.

The B.S. degree may be awarded at any time following the completion of the undergraduate degree requirements. Alternatively, the B.S. and M.S. degrees may be awarded concurrently. Students in the concurrent program must complete all undergraduate requirements with the exception that up to 9 credit hours of AGEC classes taken for graduate credit can count toward the undergraduate degree. Those graduate credits can only be used as unrestricted electives in the undergraduate degree.

RATIONALE: The proposal is to add a concurrent BS/MS program in the Department of Agricultural Economics.

A concurrent program would provide exceptional undergraduates with the opportunity to obtain both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in 5 years, a shorter time than typically required to earn a B.S. plus M.S. if both degrees are pursued separately. The proposal enhances the options for qualified undergraduates to pursue a graduate degree.

IMPACT: No impact on other departments.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2011

- **Arts and Sciences**

Mathematics

ADD: Concurrent B.S. and M.S. in Mathematics

The combined B.S./M.S. program will provide exceptional undergraduates with the opportunity to obtain both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Mathematics in 5 years, a shorter time than typically required to earn a B.S. plus M.S. if both degrees are pursued separately. The program will allow students to pursue any of the three current capstone options for the M.S. in Mathematics: a Masters Examination, a Masters Report or a Masters Thesis.

The goal of the program is to produce graduates with a broad, solid grounding in mathematics to support further study at the doctoral level or to outfit the graduate for a mathematical job in industry, government or finance.

Admission Requirements:
- Students may apply for the concurrent B.S./M.S. program from the second semester of the sophomore year through the second semester of the junior year (when they have accumulated 45-90 credit hours toward the B.S. degree). Students may apply with higher credit-hour accumulation or during the first semester of their senior year with special permission from the Department Head or the Director of Graduate Studies of the Mathematics Department.
- Students must have completed the Mathematics Core curriculum (MATH 220, MATH 221, MATH 222, MATH 240, MATH 511or MATH 512, MATH 520 or MATH 633) either at K-State or by transfer credit.
- Minimum standards for admission to the concurrent program are a cumulative GPA or 3.00 and a GPA or 3.25 in the Mathematics Core courses. Retention in the program requires maintenance of a 3.00 GPA in both undergraduate and graduate coursework.

Application Process:

The application process will be the same as for the traditional M.S. degree except that completion of the B.S. degree is not required. The following steps are required:
- KSU graduate application form completed online before semester of enrollment. In general, applicants are only considered for fall enrollment. Application fee of $30 (personal check, money order, or cashier's check payable to Kansas State University Graduate School) submitted with application.
- Applicant's statement of academic objectives and preferred primary advisor(s) must be submitted with the application.
- Three letters of reference must be submitted with the application.
- Transcript(s) of all undergraduate work must be sent directly to the Department of Mathematics.

The graduate program will process the application of the student and forward it to the Graduate School, as currently occurs for students holding a B.S. who apply to the M.S. program. Should the student meet the requirements, provisional admission to the M.S. program will be granted, pending the award of the B.S. degree. The B.S. degree may be awarded at any time following the completion of the undergraduate degree requirements. Alternatively, the B.S. and M.S. degrees may be awarded concurrently.

Program Guidelines and Formats:

A maximum of 9 credit hours will count toward both the B.S. and M.S. degrees. The 9 credit hours counted toward both degrees will be courses among the following (MATH 615, MATH 810, MATH 811, MATH 821, MATH 822, MATH 875, MATH 876, or any Mathematics course numbered 700-799).

These courses may be used either to fulfill the Mathematics B.S. requirement of 15 credit hours of Mathematics courses at the 400 level beyond the B.S. core curriculum or as general electives toward the B.S. Credits counting toward both degrees may be earned before the student takes the Graduate Basic Exam, which exam students in the concurrent program may take at any time once they are provisionally admitted to the M.S. program, but must attempt not later than the beginning of the second semester of their senior year.

In the first semester after acceptance into the concurrent degree program, the student will select a major professor from the Graduate Faculty in Mathematics. The student will work closely with the major professor to form a supervisory committee and file a program of study by the end of the first full semester following the student's acceptance into the concurrent degree program, or the second semester of the student's junior year, whichever is later. The undergraduate advisor will advise the student in the academic progress toward the B.S. degree, and the major professor will supervise the student's academic progress and preparation for the M.S. degree capstone (examination, report or thesis).

A typical M.S. program of study for students in the concurrent program would be identical to that for students in the traditional M.S. program:

Examination option
30 credit-hours of coursework at the 700-level or above, or MATH 615 and 27 credit-hours of coursework at the 700-level or above, plus successfully passing the Graduate Basic Exam and a Masters Final Examination as approved by the student's committee.

Report option
28 credit-hours of coursework at the 700-level or above, or MATH 615 and 25 credit-hours of coursework at the 700-level or above, plus successfully passing the Graduate Basic Exam, 2 credit-hours of MATH 898 and successful defense of a Masters report.

Thesis option
24 credit-hours of coursework at the 700-level or above, or MATH 615 and 21 credit-hours of coursework at the 700-level or above, plus successfully passing the Graduate Basic Exam, 6 credit-hours of MATH 899 and a successful defense of a Masters thesis.

RATIONALE: Provide exceptional mathematics majors the opportunity to earn both a B.S. and M.S. in five years.
IMPACT: No other department will be affected by this change.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2011