

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO
THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-021-256

M.S. in Agriculture – Plant Science Option Discontinuation

Academic Programs Committee – Date: 01/21//2026

Executive Committee – Date Received and Forwarded: 04/08/2026

Academic Senate – Date: 04/15/2026

First Reading

BACKGROUND:

This referral requests the discontinuation of the Plant Science Option within the M.S. in Agriculture. The option will be transitioned into an emphasis within the interdisciplinary program structure.

The M.S. in Agriculture currently enrolls 52 students across four options, with some options enrolling fewer than ten students. Maintaining multiple options presents challenges in achieving sustainable enrollment levels and meeting the target of approximately 15 students per option.

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the program, consolidating options into emphases will improve program flexibility, resource utilization, and student distribution while maintaining academic breadth.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- College Deans
- Department Chairs

Consultation identified no concerns or conflicts.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee reviewed the proposal and supports the transition from options to emphases as a strategic response to enrollment distribution challenges. The change maintains academic integrity while improving program sustainability and flexibility.

The Committee also notes that a related proposal to rename the program to Integrated Agricultural Sciences and Technology is currently under Academic Senate review.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the discontinuation of the Plant Science Option in the M.S. in Agriculture, with its transition to an emphasis within the program.