

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

August 23, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Powell, Steering Committee Chair

FROM: Kim A. Wilcox, Provost *K.A.W.*

RE: Merger of the Departments of Crop and Soil Sciences and Plant Pathology

Attached is a recommendation from Interim Dean Buhler that the Departments of and Soil Sciences and Plant Pathology be combined. As you know, authority for changes in department structure remains with the Board of Trustees, with most changes made on the recommendation of the President.

I forward this recommendation to Academic Governance for consultation prior to my decision on whether to forward to President Simon.

cc: Secretary Wright  
Associate Provost Estray



**OFFICE OF THE  
PROVOST**

Michigan State University  
430 Administration Building  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

517-335-6550  
Fax: 517-355-9601  
provost.msu.edu

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

August 22, 2011

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 22 2011**

**OFFICE OF THE PROVOST**

Kim Wilcox  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
430 Administration Building  
Campus

Dear Provost Wilcox,

The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences and the Department of Plant Pathology have engaged in preliminary discussions regarding a merger to form a new department. The faculty and leadership of each department are enthusiastic about this possibility. I am supportive of the integration plan and we are now prepared to move ahead.

I request that the current departments be formally dissolved and the new, integrated department be formed effective July 1, 2012. It is important that the new department maintain the disciplinary strengths and identities that have served the current departments. We must also use this opportunity to forge new connections that will make this department a centerpiece for the CANR and for the plant, soil and plant microbe sciences at MSU.



**College of  
Agriculture and  
Natural  
Resources**

Office of the Dean

Michigan State  
University  
102 Agriculture Hall  
East Lansing, MI  
48824-1039

517-355-0232  
Fax: 517-353-9896  
<http://www.canr.msu.edu>

As the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources prepares to evaluate the overall curriculum, I view this as an opportunity for the newly integrated department to evaluate the current curricula and course offerings in the plant sciences. The goal will be two-fold: 1) To develop and deliver a curriculum that will support the needs and interests of current and future students, and 2) To develop a complement of courses that will integrate well into other segments of the CANR curriculum.

I request that you and your office provide the guidance needed to begin this process, including the necessary input through Academic Governance.

During the 2011-12 Academic Year, the current departments and CANR will begin the integration process through the following steps:

1. Selection of a department name that reflects the integrated nature of the new unit.

2. Development of By-Laws that will enable the new department to excel.

3. Integration of the existing support staff to ensure a smooth transition to a new administrative structure.

4. Integration of operational procedures, including academic records, unit codes, accounting, purchasing, and information technology.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Douglas D. Buhler  
Interim Dean

cc: James Kells  
Ray Hammerschmidt  
Frank Fear  
Steve Pueppke  
Tom Coon  
Rick Brandenburg