



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: T. Chris Riley-Tillman, Provost and Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: Proposal to Create BA in Economic Sciences Program

DATE: March 19, 2025

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The Provost's Office and its internal review committee have reviewed the attached proposal from the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resources Sciences to create a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economic Sciences.

The School of Economic Sciences currently offers a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Economic Sciences. The proposed BA program aims to serve a broader range of students with different skill sets, academic interests, and career goals, strengthening the school's ability to meet diverse academic demands and stay competitive with peer institutions. Key reasons to introduce a BA program include curriculum flexibility, attracting a broader range of students, career path diversity, graduate study flexibility, and interdisciplinary integration.

The BA program would provide an alternative to the BS program, serving students who seek a broader, interdisciplinary education in economics that prepares them for a variety of non-technical career paths. Given the overlap in coursework, the school anticipates minimal to no impact on facilities, equipment, library resources, or faculty FTE.

The Provost's Office and its internal review committee have carefully reviewed the proposal, and the following feedback was conveyed to the college:

- The enrollment projections are optimistic, and enrollment in the BA program will likely impact enrollment in the BS program.

We support the proposal and deem it ready for the Senate review process.