

## Cover Sheet: Request 22018

### Dissolve UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Department

#### Info

Process	Unit New/Modify/Close
Status	Pending at FAC - Faculty Senate Steering Committee
Submitter	Melissa Long melong@ufl.edu
Created	10/19/2025 11:35:38 PM
Updated	10/22/2025 3:30:47 PM
Description of request	<p>The proposal to dissolve the UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture department will benefit current faculty, staff, and students in various ways (resulting in no program cuts or employee layoffs). There is no mission change or budget cuts associated with this proposal, however, there will be additional opportunities for alignment and collaboration of faculty within IFAS academic home departments in which they have identified. All faculty and staff will remain in their current office and lab spaces and a focus on preparing students for future careers in the industry will remain unchanged. This administrative evolution will better serve faculty, staff, students and stakeholders in key ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fostering collaboration. Solutions have never come just from one department. Scientists from Horticultural Sciences, Plant Pathology, Agronomy and the School of Forest, Fisheries, &amp; Geomatics Sciences (SFFGS) have long worked together on a variety of challenges. Faculty will choose other departments as their academic home, essentially embedding them with teams whose expertise aligns with theirs. One could argue for example, that an Environmental Horticulture faculty member who works on trees will find different opportunities to collaborate with other tree experts in SFFGS than he or she would have in their present department, where most colleagues focus on flowers, landscape, nursery plants or turf.</li> <li>-Enhancing support. The change has the potential to increase the capacity of horticulture faculty with better structure and support to connect with colleagues across multiple disciplines. For example, someone who "moves" (and brings all foundation funding and students with them) to Horticultural Sciences has more than 50 new department colleagues who can help them solve horticultural plant and production problems. Migrating staff will also fold into new departments to scale their efforts in support of faculty so the experts can spend less time on back-office functions and more on teaching, research and Extension.</li> <li>-Finding additional funding paths. Joining a team in other departments may connect the faculty to many more funding opportunities than those that are focused exclusively on ornamentals, for example.</li> <li>-Attracting more students. Distributing environmental horticulture classes throughout the course catalog of another department may offer a gateway for students who may not otherwise have found them, potentially sparking more passion for the industry.</li> </ul> <p>Discussions with Provost's Office on the process and proposal started in July 2025. The goal is to shift faculty, staff and students to their new department homes on January 1, 2026.</p>

#### Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Academic Affairs	Approved	PV - Academic Affairs	Tobin Shorey		10/20/2025
No document changes					
Department	Approved	CALS - Environmental Horticulture 60180000	Wagner Vendrame		10/20/2025
No document changes					
College	Approved	CALS - College of Agricultural and Life Sciences	Anne Mathews	Approved per email with Kati Migliaccio and Melissa Long on 10/20/2025	10/20/2025
No document changes					

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Associate Provost - Curriculum	Approved	PV - Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Tobin Shorey		10/22/2025
No document changes					
Graduate Council - Notified	Notified	GRAD - Graduate Council			10/22/2025
No document changes					
Professional Curriculum Committee - Notified	Notified	PCC - Professional Curriculum Committee			10/22/2025
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee - Notified	Notified	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			10/22/2025
No document changes					
Faculty Senate Steering Committee	Pending	FAC - Faculty Senate Steering Committee			10/22/2025
No document changes					
Faculty Senate					
No document changes					
Academic Affairs					
No document changes					
Board of Trustees					
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
OIPR Notified					
No document changes					

## **Proposed Dissolution of the UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Department**

*Description of the proposed change.* The dissolution of the Environmental Horticulture Department will result in transitioning faculty, staff, and other employees to one of four departments within IFAS.

*Background and rationale.* The proposal to dissolve the UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture department will benefit current faculty, staff, and students in various ways (resulting in no program cuts or employee layoffs). There is no mission change or budget cuts associated with this proposal, however, there will be additional opportunities for alignment and collaboration of faculty within IFAS academic home departments in which they have identified. All faculty and staff will remain in their current office and lab spaces and a focus on preparing students for future careers in the industry will remain unchanged. This administrative evolution will better serve faculty, staff, students and stakeholders in key ways.

**-Fostering collaboration.** Solutions have never come just from one department. Scientists from Horticultural Sciences, Plant Pathology, Agronomy and the School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences (SFFGS) have long worked together on a variety of challenges. Faculty will choose other departments as their academic home, essentially embedding them with teams whose expertise aligns with theirs. One could argue for example, that an Environmental Horticulture faculty member who works on trees will find different opportunities to collaborate with other tree experts in SFFGS than he or she would have in their present department, where most colleagues focus on flowers, landscape, nursery plants, or turf.

**-Enhancing support.** The change has the potential to increase the capacity of horticulture faculty with better structure and support to connect with colleagues across multiple disciplines. For example, someone who “moves” (and brings all foundation funding and students with them) to Horticultural Sciences has more than 50 new department colleagues who can help them solve horticultural plant and production problems. Migrating staff will also fold into new departments to scale their efforts in support of faculty so the experts can spend less time on back-office functions and more on teaching, research, and Extension.

**-Finding additional funding paths.** Joining a team in other departments may connect the faculty to many more funding opportunities than those that are focused exclusively on ornamentals, for example.

**-Attracting more students.** Distributing environmental horticulture classes throughout the course catalog of another department may offer a gateway for students who may not otherwise have found them, potentially sparking more passion for the industry. Discussions with Provost’s Office on the process and proposal started in July 2025. The goal is to shift faculty, staff and students to their new department homes on January 1, 2026.

*Department vote:* The Environmental Horticulture department faculty have been in touch with the unit leaders for the new department in which they see alignment and collaboration. The thirty department faculty voted on the dissolution of the department and the results were: 26 in favor of dissolving the department and 4 “absent”/no response.