

**RHSA Curricula and Courses Committee
Minutes of Meeting 3Jul19**

I. Welcome - Call to order

Members Voting via E-Mail: Mark Brand, Sandra Bushmich, Gary Kazmer, Tom Meyer

II. Old Business:

None

III. New Business:

A. The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture proposes the following:

1. REVISE: Minimum credit hours required to obtain RHSA Associate's Degree.

Motion by Brand, Second by Meyer

MOTION PASSED RHSA 18-19-14 (4-0-0)

IV. Report from Academic Programs:

V. Other Business:

VI. Time and Place of next meeting: TBD

VII. Adjourn

Request to move from 64 credits to 60

We, the faculty of the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture have voted in our Courses and Curriculum Committee Meeting in December 2018 to reduce the requirement of a minimum of 64 completed credits to a minimum of 60 completed credits. We send this request to the Director of the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture and the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources for initial approval before sending this for final approval to the Provost's Office.

The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture confers Associate of Applied Science Degrees in Animal Science and Plant Science. As such, it is the only Associate Degree program at the University of Connecticut. This Storrs-based two-year program of technical and applied education was established in 1941 by the University of Connecticut through a bequest from Mr. Ratcliffe Hicks of Tolland, Connecticut as a certificate-based program.

We believe that the 64 credit minimum requirement stems from the historical nature of the Ratcliffe Hick School of Agriculture, but that it no longer serves the needs of our students. In the 1950-51 catalog, baccalaureate degrees required a minimum of 124 credits while the RHSA required a minimum of 64 credits for a certificate. In the past 78 years, much has changed at this university. Many baccalaureate degree requirements have been updated, including a reduction from 124 to 120 credits, while RHSA remained at a minimum of 64 credits. RHSA has continued to change to address the needs and interests of the student body. In 1995, the School converted from a certificate program to an Associate of Applied Science Degree, and significant curriculum updates ensued. By changing the total credit requirement from 64 to 60, we align with the Associate Degree portion of the *Regulations for Licensure and Accreditation of Institutions and Programs of Higher Learning* set forth by the Connecticut Board of Higher Education, and also align with our closest peer institution, the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, based in Massachusetts.

Students currently enrolled in RHSA could complete their major and General Education requirements within 60 credits and would not be burdened by excess credits that are no longer necessary.