APPENDIX C

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

1. Background

The Institute of Land and Food Resources wishes to replace the current Postgraduate Diploma in Agricultural Science with a Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Science. The change will enable the introduction of a graduate program based on the standard subject module (12.5 credit points), replacing the old subject module (16.67 pts) used in the PG Diploma Ag Science. It will also meet the academic needs of students enrolled in the course, through maximising access to, and utilisation of, existing later year subjects already available in the faculty.

A graduate coursework program in agricultural science within ILFR has been in place since 1998 with the introduction of the Postgraduate Diploma in Agricultural Science (PGDipAgSc), based on the utilisation of Honour-level subjects in the previous Bachelor of Agricultural Science and a small number of specific postgraduate subjects.

The market for this course has primarily come from mature international scholarship students with a first degree, typically a Bachelor in Agricultural Science or similar, followed by 4-10 years of professional experience in education, research, planning or extension. Such candidates wish to return to academic study with a coursework start, providing them with a refresher program and some specialisation in a preferred discipline.

The current PGDipAgSc must be retired, as the basic module of 16.6 point subjects are no longer available. The proposed Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Science (GDipAgSc) will maintain the coursework option while maximising the availability of subjects to candidates across all disciplinary areas in agriculture, plus related ILFR undergraduate degrees in resource management, animal science and management, food science and forest science.

The GDipAgSc will complement the range of offerings in agriculture, ranging from TAFE Certificates and Diplomas, through undergraduate and postgraduate course and postgraduate research training. The qualification will utilise the full range of existing academic and physical infrastructures at the Parkville campus.

2. Entry Requirements

Eligibility

2. The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to pursue successfully the course using the following criteria –

- an undergraduate degree or equivalent; or
- a TAFE or Higher Education Advanced Diploma in an appropriate discipline and 2 years full time, documented, relevant, work experience or equivalent; or
- a TAFE Diploma in an appropriate discipline and 4 years full time, documented, relevant, work experience or equivalent; or
- at least 6 years full time, documented, relevant, work experience with complex agricultural systems including at least 3 years full time, or equivalent, in a supervisory or managerial role.

Selection

2. The Selection Committee may conduct interviews and tests and call for referees reports and employer references to elucidate any of the matters referred to above.

3. Course Structure

The GDipAgSc will require the completion of six coursework subjects (12.5 points each) and one research subject (25 points). Two subjects (37.5 points) will be compulsory; five subjects (62.5 points) will be elective. These may be completed in twelve months (full-time basis) or as a part-time student.

Compulsory subjects

Code	*Subject*	*Points*	*Semester*
208-411	Research Philosophies and Statistics	12.5	1
or			
207-414	Social Research Methods	12.5	1
207-XXX	Research Study in Agricultural Science	25.0	1 or 2

Elective subjects

Individual students will receive course planning advice to assist with their selection of subjects and taking into account their prior academic training, work experience and aspirations. Subjects generally will be drawn from higher-level (3XX and 4XX) ILFR undergraduate subjects listed in the University Handbook. Students will be able to select from lower-level subjects if a coherent sequence is required to build knowledge bases or specific disciplinary skills. Appropriate subjects may be selected from faculties outside ILFR, with the approvals of the Course Coordinator and the faculty concerned. Availability of electives will be subject to appropriate enrolment levels.

Code	*Subject*	*Points*	*Semester*
202-304	Resource Mangt & Ag Systems Analysis	12.5	2
207-301	Global Environment & Sustainable Systems	12.5	1
207-330	GIS & Remote Sensing	12.5	1
208-301	Crop and Pasture Physiology	12.5	1
208-302	Molecular Biology, Breeding & Biotechnology	12.5	1
208-303	Animal Production Systems	12.5	1
208-304	Advanced Topics in Farm Animal Science	12.5	2
208-306	Agricultural Marketing	12.5	2
208-307	Plant Pathology	12.5	1
208-324	Applied Animal Behaviour	12.5	*
208-325	Applied Animal Reproduction	12.5	*
208-339	Genetics and Animal Breeding	12.5	1
202-404	Emerging Issues in Land Resources	12.5	2
207-401	Soil Management & Conservation	12.5	1
207-402	Management of Plant & Animal Invasions	12.5	2
207-404	Agricultural Policy & International Trade	12.5	2
207-405	Hydrology & Catchment Management	12.5	1
207-410	Agroforestry	12.5	1
207-413	Community Mangt of Land & Natural Resources	12.5	2
208-408	Special Studies in Animal Science	12.5	**
208-409	Animal Welfare	12.5	1
208-402	Advanced Plant Breeding and Improvement	12.5	2
208-407	Genetics and Animal Breeding	12.5	2

* *not available until 2005*

** *not available until 2006*

The course will be available both full and part-time.

4. EFTSU and Budgetary Consequences

This is a full fee-paying course and will be offered to both international and Australian students. There are no implications for transfer of EFTSU between faculties.