

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – I (1)
DATE: April 2-3, 2025

SUBJECT

Agreements on Academic Cooperation – SDSU

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 5.3](#) – Agreements and Contracts

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

BOR Policy 5.3 requires board action on a range of items including “Affiliative agreements and other agreements that provide for joint sponsorship of educational programming for which credit shall be awarded.” To comply with this requirement, South Dakota State University (SDSU) seeks approval to enter into two agreements on academic cooperation with the University of Debrecen, located in Debrecen, Hungary, as well as with University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, located in Dublin, Ireland.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

The agreement with the University of Debrecen will establish a collaborative undergraduate dual degree program involving SDSU’s BS in Precision Agriculture program.

The agreement with University College Dublin, National University of Ireland will allow the two universities to explore staff exchange and collaboration, joint research activities and publications, continuing education and professional development opportunities, and student exchanges.

Board staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Agreement on Academic Cooperation – SDSU & University of Debrecen
Attachment II – Agreement on Academic Cooperation – SDSU & University College Dublin, National University of Ireland

DRAFT MOTION 20250402_5-I(1):

I move to approve South Dakota State University to finalize and execute the agreements on academic cooperation with the University of Debrecen and University College Dublin, National University of Ireland in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachments I & II.



AGREEMENT ON ACADEMIC COOPERATION

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, USA AND UNIVERSITY OF DEBRECEN, HUNGARY

The University of Debrecen (UD-located at Egyetem tér 1, 4032 Debrecen, Hungary, and represented by Prof. Dr. Zoltán Szilvássy, Rector) and South Dakota State University, a public institution of higher education under the control and management of the South Dakota Board of Regents (SDSU-located at 1148 Medary Avenue, Brookings, South Dakota 57006, and represented by Dr. Barry H. Dunn, President), through its College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, in order to enrich their educational and research programs and to strengthen cooperation between both universities (Parties), hereby agree to establish a collaborative undergraduate dual degree program in the field of Precision Agriculture under the conditions set forth by this agreement.

I. SCOPE OF THE COOPERATION

- Article 1. The Parties agree to establish a collaborative undergraduate dual degree program (the Program) in the following majors in the SDSU College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences: Precision Agriculture.
- Article 2. Under this Program, UD students will commence and complete the first three semesters of their undergraduate studies at UD, where they will follow a course of study organized by UD in consultation with the SDSU College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences to allow students to begin completing degree requirements simultaneously for the UD B.Sc. degree in Precision Agriculture Engineering as well as the SDSU B.S. degree in Precision Agriculture. UD students will then study with SDSU for the fourth and fifth semester. UD students may opt to study with SDSU online, or they may travel to SDSU to take courses in person on the SDSU campus in Brookings. In the sixth and seventh semesters, UD students will return to the UD campus to complete their degree coursework and fulfill all requirements for the UD B.Sc. degree in Precision Agricultural Engineering and the SDSU B.S. degree in Precision Agriculture. After successful completion of the degrees requirements (seven semesters), UD students will be awarded the UD B.Sc. degree in Precision Agriculture Engineering and the SDSU B.S. degree in Precision Agriculture.
- Article 3. At the time of admission to UD, students will be advised that they must also meet the admission requirements for SDSU international undergraduate students.
- Article 4. It is the responsibility of UD to nominate students for the program with:
- a. High school grade point average at the time of application equivalent to a 2.6 grade point average on a 4.0 scale
 - b. All academic transcripts and certificates (including secondary and post-secondary education)
 - c. All applicants who are not native speakers of English must

demonstrate proficiency in English with one of the following:

- Official TOEFL iBT (sent from the testing agency): 61*
- Official TOEFL PBT (sent from the testing agency): 500*
- Official Pearson PTE (sent from the testing agency): 44
- Scanned Academic IELTS result with clear TRF: 5.5*
- Online E3PT Exam (sent from the testing agency): 62
- Online iTEP Exam (sent from the testing agency): 3.6
- Duolingo (sent from the testing agency): 90

*TOEFL and IELTS scores must have been earned in the past two years

II. UNDERGRADUATE DUAL DEGREE PROCESS

- A. The UD Department of Precision Agricultural Engineering every year will select junior undergraduate students to continue their study at SDSU majoring in Precision Agriculture. The Precision Agriculture program at SDSU will accept the Department of Precision Agricultural Engineering at UD students if they meet SDSU academic and international transfer student admission requirements. Students who are not native speakers of English must demonstrate English proficiency as outlined above.
- B. Before coming to SDSU, the dual degree students must have studied at the Department of Precision Agriculture Engineering at UD for three academic semesters and successfully completed the required courses as specified in written agreement between the two academic units. The Department of Precision Agricultural Engineering at UD will ensure course content matches the SDSU Precision Agriculture major curriculum.
- C. No additional transcript evaluation beyond acknowledgement of successfully completed coursework as set forth herein, which is otherwise required of international transfer students, will be required. SDSU will ensure course credit and equivalencies are processed and applied to the student’s SDSU degree program in a timely manner. Therefore, SDSU will waive the transcript certification (e.g., by WES) for the dual degree students.
- D. The dual degree students will follow the curriculum outlined in the agreement, including required SDSU general education courses. The recommended time to complete the SDSU courses is one year but can be extended to two years. There will not be a requirement that 15 of the last 30 credit hours must be completed at the UD or SDSU degree-granting institution.
- E. The dual degree students who successfully complete all the required courses at Precision Agricultural Engineering at UD and Precision Agriculture at SDSU will receive both a degree at UD and at SDSU College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.
- F. The dual degree students will be given directions for applying to stay in the on-campus student residence halls during their study at SDSU. After one year, they are recommended but not required to continue staying in one of the SDSU on-campus residence halls.

III. SDSU’S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. SDSU in collaboration with UD will evaluate applications and review credits to transfer to SDSU. SDSU and UD will mutually agree on the number of qualified students that can be accepted from UD each semester/academic year. When transferring credits from an international university to SDSU, a course-by-course evaluation is required. This evaluation converts the educational credentials into the SDSU equivalents, detailing each course, its credit value, and the corresponding U.S.

- grade.
- B. In the fourth semester, SDSU will enroll students either in online or in-person sections of required courses in the dual degree program as follows in C.
 - C. SDSU will guide the UD students to take courses with the curriculum outlined in the Guideline Document.
 - D. SDSU College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences will provide academic advising.
 - E. SDSU College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences will appoint an administrator or faculty member to oversee the dual degree program as well as the well-being of the students, and to work directly with a UD counterpart.
 - F. SDSU will provide guidance to the UD students on how to obtain a grade report/SDSU transcript upon completion of the program from the SDSU Registrar's Office.
 - G. SDSU's International Office will provide UD with a list of anticipated costs each year.
 - H. SDSU's International Office will provide UD with instructions for the SDSU application, instructions for housing on campus, cost information and pre-departure information by email.
 - I. SDSU's International Office will provide each admitted student opting to study on the SDSU campus with the documents necessary to apply for a U.S. student visa at the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate overseas. The visa type is currently a J-1.
 - J. SDSU's International Office will provide activities during the first days of the UD students' arrival to include introductions to staff/teachers, academic orientation, orientation to housing and meals, review of the schedule, use of technology, orientation to campus facilities, explanation of rules and regulations, and campus tour.
 - K. SDSU's International Office will arrange for airport pickup on arrival day each semester.

IV. UD RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. UD will have each participant complete the online SDSU application form, online Residential Life housing application, and any other required forms. UD will help each applicant with submitting all necessary application documents.
- B. UD will have each participant pay the applicable tuition, fees, and related costs for the credits in which they enroll at SDSU, directly to SDSU. The rate of tuition will be set at non-resident, and all mandatory and course/discipline fees will be assessed.
- C. UD will notify those UD students opting to study on the SDSU campus that they will need to cover their international travel costs to and from Brookings, SD, including all airport transfers and taxes.
- D. UD will notify those UD students opting to study on the SDSU campus that they will have each participant arrange for visas and related travel documents.
- E. Each UD student will pay charges and fees directly to their SDSU student account.
- F. UD students opting to study on the SDSU campus will obtain the SDBOR required and university approved medical insurance.
- G. UD will advise all participants to comply with all SDSU rules and regulations.

V. APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATORS

Each institution shall designate an individual who will serve as a Primary Contact for this agreement. The Primary Contact will be responsible for maintaining, revising, and/or renewing the agreement, as appropriate. In addition, each institution shall name at least one Academic Contact and this person will coordinate the specific academic aspects of the agreement.

The following individuals at each institution will be responsible for this agreement:

<p>South Dakota State University</p> <p>PRIMARY CONTACT FOR AGREEMENT Name: Teresa Seefeldt, PharmD, Ph.D. Title: Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Office: Office of Academic Affairs Mailing Address: Morrill Hall, Room 230 Brookings, SD 57007 USA Email: teresa.seefeldt@sdstate.edu Telephone: +1-605-688-4173</p> <p>ACADEMIC UNIT CONTACT Name: James Connors, Ph.D. Title: Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs/Professor Office: College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Mailing Address: Berg Agricultural Hall 162, Box 2207, Brookings, SD 57007 Email: james.connors@sdstate.edu Telephone: +1-605-688-4148</p>	<p>University of Debrecen</p> <p>PRIMARY CONTACT FOR AGREEMENT Name: Endre Harsányi, Ph.D. Title: Vice-Rector for Agricultural Innovation/Training Development Office: Faculty of Agricultural, Food Sciences and Environmental Sciences Mailing Address: Böszörményi út 138, 4032 Debrecen, Hungary Email: harsanyie@agr.unideb.hu Telephone: +36-52 508 444</p> <p>ACADEMIC UNIT CONTACT Name: Tamas Rátonyi, PhD. Title: Professor/Head, Precision Agriculture Engineering Office: Debreceni Egyetem, Mezőgazdaság-, Élelmiszertudományi és Környezetgazdálkodási Kar Mailing Address: Debrecen Kér u, 12, 4032 Debrecen, Hungary Email: ratonyi@agr.unideb.hu Telephone: +36-30 275 8018</p>
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The individuals in the positions listed above agree to respond to inquiries and correspondence from the partner institution in a timely and efficient manner.

VI. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- A. This agreement shall be valid for a period of five years. This agreement will be effective upon signature of the responsible authority of each institution and may be terminated by either party by given written notice to the other institution six months in advance of the date of termination. A termination of the agreement will not affect persons who have already begun the dual degree program under its provisions.
- B. Matters not provided in this agreement shall be decided by mutual agreement between the two institutions and set forth in writing by the authorized representatives of the parties. Additional joint activities, such as student or faculty exchange, will require the execution of a separate agreement.
- C. Modifications of this agreement shall be made in the form of a written addendum signed by both parties.
- D. Nothing in the above agreement shall be construed as being legally binding.
- E. This agreement depends upon the continued availability of appropriated funds and expenditure authority for this purpose from the Legislature of the State of South Dakota. If for any reason the Legislature fails to appropriate or grant expenditure authority or if funds become unavailable by operation of law or federal funds reductions, this agreement will be terminated by the State. Termination for any of these reasons is not a default by the State nor does it give rise to a claim against the State.

In the spirit of international friendship and cooperation, we hereby set our signatures:

for South Dakota State University

for the University of Debrecen

Dr. Barry H. Dunn, President

Prof. Dr. Zoltán Szilvássy, Rector

Date:

Date:

**AGREEMENT ON ACADEMIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN**

On the basis of a mutual commitment to further international understanding and friendship, to share academic knowledge and to establish and develop mutually beneficial academic contacts, South Dakota State University (SDSU) and the University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Dublin (UCD) agree to the following:

I. Scope of the Cooperation

- Article 1. The institutions agree to exchange experience and information on questions of pedagogy, organization and contents of instruction, and the training of faculty and students, as appropriate. The area of exchange shall cover academic disciplines to be determined and negotiated by both parties and may specifically include academic disciplines within the SDSU College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, SDSU Ness School of Management and Economics, and the SDSU College of Natural Sciences.
- Article 2. The institutions agree to exchange scientific and technical expertise, educational practices, as well as exhibitions and other materials, as appropriate, illustrating the activities and achievements of both institutions.
- Article 3. The institutions agree, as appropriate, to help faculty members of both parties conduct joint research projects.
- Article 4. Both institutions agree to discuss other proposals relating to future collaborations and exchange, including the possibility of brief exchange visits, joint publication of research, student and faculty exchange, student Study Abroad (direct enroll) programs, faculty-led tours and other similar projects as appropriate.

II. Appointment of Coordinators

- Article 5. Each institution shall designate an individual and/or team who will serve as coordinator for this agreement. The coordinator will be responsible for maintaining, revising, and/or renewing the agreement, as appropriate. In addition, each institution shall name at least one academic contact, and this person will coordinate the specific aspects of the agreement.
- Article 6. The following individuals at each institution will be responsible for coordinating this agreement:

<p>South Dakota State University</p> <p>PRIMARY CONTACT FOR AGREEMENT Name: Dennis D. Hedge, Pharm.D. Title: Provost and Vice President Office: Academic Affairs Mailing Address: Morrill Hall, Room 230 Brookings, SD 57007, USA Email: dennis.hedge@sdsstate.edu Telephone: 605-688-4173</p> <p>ACADEMIC UNIT CONTACT Name: Teresa Seefeldt, Pharm.D. Ph.D. Title: Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Office: Academic Affairs Mailing Address: Morrill Hall, Room 230 Brookings, SD 57007, USA Email: teresa.seefeldt@sdsstate.edu Telephone: 605-688-4173</p>	<p>University College Dublin</p> <p>PRIMARY CONTACT FOR AGREEMENT Name: Enda Carroll Title: Associate Director, Learning Abroad Office: UCD Global Mailing Address: Gerard Manley Hopkins Centre, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland Email: enda.carroll@ucd.ie Telephone: +353 1 7168544</p> <p>ACADEMIC UNIT CONTACT Name: UCD Global Partnership team Office: UCD Global Mailing Address: Gerard Manley Hopkins Centre, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland Email: global.partnerships@ucd.ie Telephone: +353 1 7168500</p>
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Article 7. The individuals in the positions listed above agree to respond to inquiries and correspondence from the partner institution in a timely and efficient manner.

VI. Terms of Agreement

Article 8. This agreement shall be valid for a period of five years. This agreement will be effective upon signature of the responsible authority of each institution and may be terminated by either party by given written notice to the other institution six months in advance of the date of termination. A termination of the agreement will not affect persons who have already begun an exchange under its provisions.

Article 9. **Intention of the Parties.** The purpose of this agreement is only to express the intentions of the Parties and is not intended to be legally binding on any party except the provisions of Article 14. The terms of cooperation for each specific activity contemplated under this Agreement shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon in writing by the parties prior to the initiation of that activity. Any such activities agreed upon will be recorded and governed by a separate legally binding agreement, executed by the parties. Nothing in this agreement shall constitute or be deemed to constitute a partnership between the parties hereto or constitute or be deemed to constitute either party the agent of the other for any purpose whatsoever and neither party shall have any authority or power to bind the other party or to contract in the name of or create a liability against the other party.

- Article 10. Modifications of this agreement shall be made in the form of a written addendum signed by both parties.
- Article 11. Nothing in the above agreement shall be construed as being legally binding.
- Article 12. SDSU confirms that it is aware of the UCD Statement on Academic Freedom at https://hub.ucd.ie/usis!/W_HU_MENU.P_PUBLISH?p_tag=GD-DOCLAND&ID=189
- Article 13. Both parties shall acknowledge each institution's national legislative and professional requirements as an awarding body.
- Article 14. Parties may use each other's name and/or logo on their website, corporate brochure, annual report and other marketing and public communications/ collaterals for the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding only with the prior written consent of the other Party.
- Article 15. This agreement depends upon the continued availability of appropriated funds and expenditure authority for this purpose from the Legislature of the State of South Dakota. If for any reason the Legislature fails to appropriate or grant expenditure authority or if funds become unavailable by operation of law or federal funds reductions, this agreement will be terminated by the State. Termination for any of these reasons is not a default by the State nor does it give rise to a claim against the State.

In the spirit of international friendship and cooperation, we hereby set our signatures:

South Dakota State University

University College Dublin,
National University of Ireland, Dublin

Barry H. Dunn, President

Professor Orla Feely, President

Date:

Date: