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October 23, 2017

OSU Faculty Senate Curriculum Council
Re: Graduate Online Certificate in Organic Agriculture

Dear Curriculum Council,
I am writing to express my support for the proposal for a new Online Graduate Certificate in Organic Agriculture Program in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

The demand for organically produced food and fiber has shown percent-growth in the double digits in recent years, and the science that supports organic production is rapidly moving forward. Oregon State University has a strong history at the forefront of research for organic agricultural production, including Extension and outreach programs. An online graduate certificate program focused on Organic Agriculture would further that tradition by offering a graduate level academic program and will be the first of its kind in the United States, Canada and Europe. Faculty in the Department of Horticulture feel this is an important endeavor as well, and have committed their time to developing courses and making this program a success.

As the current Department Head for the Department of Horticulture, it is my opinion that a graduate certificate in Organic Agriculture at Oregon State University will benefit the agricultural community, the organic industry, and our students, and I fully support the effort to create this program.
Sincerely,

Bill Braunworth, Department Head