Key facts about the Dual Degree Program in Food Science
to be offered in Beijing by Cornell/College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) in
collaboration with China Agricultural University (CAU)

Purpose
• This collaborative effort of two of the world’s most highly ranked colleges of agriculture will offer a
  high quality undergraduate dual degree program in the field of Food Science & Food Safety, and will
  promote international collaboration in higher education. The program will prepare students for
careers in the food industry, government, academia, and for graduate study in food science or related
disciplines.

Final degree
• Students will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science conferred by Cornell (with the
distinction “CAU-Cornell”). Requirements for this degree will be consistent with those for the degree
awarded to students receiving the Cornell Food Science degree in Ithaca. Students will also receive a
degree of Bachelor of Engineering conferred by CAU in Food Science and Engineering, or Food Quality
and Safety, depending on the concentration selected by the student.
• Degree program approved by Cornell, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and SUNY,
as well as the China Ministry of Education

Program administration and oversight
• Board of Administration (6 members from each institution)
• Joint Academic and Operations Committee (4 members from each institution)
• Administrative Staff (3 members from each institution)

Content
• The dual degree program will provide an integrated curriculum blending fundamental science with
  applied aspects of the science of foods. This program includes core courses in food microbiology and
  safety, food processing and engineering, the food chemistry, and sensory evaluation of foods. It will
  also have a major emphasis on food safety, providing a comprehensive curriculum covering physical,
  chemical and biological hazards that affect food safety while providing a solid background in applied
  food science.

Enrollment and admission
• Program will be offered at CAU in Beijing, beginning in Fall 2021, with Fall 2022 admission to Cornell
  (to be handled as a transfer process)
• Max. capacity: 120 students per year; 480 total students enrolled in the 4 year program
• Students will first apply through the CAU entrance examination, and be admitted to CAU
• Admission into Cornell (details are being finalized): applicants will have to pass a language test
  (options now discussed by CALS & Cornell Admissions), and submit an essay. Dossiers will be handled
  by CALS Admissions as transfer applications. An interview with the Program coordinator and Director
  of the Program is also planned (format of the interview also under discussion by Admissions).

Degree structure, courses, requirements
• Requirements for the completion of the degree will be identical to the Cornell CALS and Food Science
  requirements
• Cornell/CALS will be responsible for 20 courses and 58 credits; remaining credits will be taught by CAU faculty in English in the subject matter areas that correspond to the Cornell/CALS curriculum
• Degree structure: The first two years of the program will provide students with a solid background in math, chemistry, and physical and biological sciences. Required courses include chemistry (introductory and organic), biology, microbiology, calculus, physics, introductory food science courses, and nutrition. The last two years will emphasize the application of these basic sciences and technology to the manufacturing, sensory evaluation, storage, distribution, and safety of foods and food ingredients.

Faculty and staff
• An Ithaca-based faculty member (Professor of Practice) will serve as Program Director and will provide oversight of these faculty and assure general quality of the courses and the overall degree program
• A staff member will be hired to provide student services (Registrar function) and program assistance
• Cornell will hire a non tenure track faculty to serve as Program Coordinator in Beijing (with adjunct Cornell title). This person will have local oversight of the curriculum, recruitment, and program operation. CAU will provide payroll services.
• Cornell will also hire several non tenure track teaching faculty to deliver the course material in China. CAU will provide payroll services.

Special provisions from the Program Agreement between Cornell and CAU:
• Non-discrimination: “The parties agree not to discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.”
• Academic freedom: “Generally accepted principles of academic freedom will be applicable to all educational and research activities undertaken by, or under the direction of, faculty who participate in the projects contemplated by this MOA.”
• Termination: “This MOA or any Project Agreement can be terminated for material breach upon provision of written notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure. Termination may also occur for any reason upon six months’ written notice, in which case all reasonable efforts shall be made to minimize disruption of work under existing Project Agreements.”