Report on the Cat I. proposal to create a School of Integrated Plant, Soil and Insect Science (81957)

The proposal deals with what should be a straightforward merger of two departments but the following items need further attention.

**General comments**

While discussed briefly, the driving force behind the merger is not clear. What advantages are gained by the merger? What compensates for the administrative trouble of creating the merger?

**Entomology**

The “Insect Science” part of the proposal seems weak. There are only two faculty that identify themselves as insect scientists. Is this enough?

The history of a weak, non-sustainable graduate program in Entomology that was terminated/suspended needs to be discussed, in particular, how this will be made into a viable undergraduate program and a graduate minor. The INT headcount in 2010 was criticized in the discussion of the graduate program review. Please reply to these criticisms.

**Fiscal Issues**

The BFP group requested the budget reflect inflation. It does not. The effect of declining support for the SWPS upon the program should be addressed.

**The Curriculum**

It is said that there is no set curriculum for graduate degrees. Course work is assigned by program committees. How does one determine when the requirement for a graduate degree is met?

**SCH/Faculty ratios**

This discussion is hard to follow given the large number of faculty.

**BPP**

Why do they have no role in this merger? The few sentence discussion of this point seems superficial.

**Details**

What is “citizen evaluation of teaching”? What is the availability of internships? What is the relation between the current courses and the new courses?