Follow up review of the graduate program in Masters of Agriculture

December 2011

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The overall recommendations of the panel for the May 2009 graduate program review of the Masters of Agriculture degree program identified six areas of concern that were addressed in the action plan submitted by Cary Green, Assistant Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences. In January 2011, Greg Thompson, Professor and Head of the Agricultural Education and General Agriculture Department replaced Cary Green in providing oversight of the Masters of Agriculture (MAg) program. The follow-up review on December 2011, described below, was conducted with Dr. Thompson. Below, each area of concern is addressed by number followed by its current status in parentheses. Please refer to the previous full report of the review team for a complete description of each concern.

1. Low enrollment (in progress)

The Mag program had 4 enrolled students Fall 2008 with a 5-year average of 5.2 students per year. By fall 2011, the number of students had doubled. Eight students were enrolled from which three graduated by the end of Fall 2011. The administration is aware of the low enrollment and works with faculty and students to promote the program. Thompson has received several calls from students exhibiting interest in the program and he is working towards the formulation of a marketing plan to better promote the MAg program.

2. Lack of clarity and visibility (in progress)

A formal written description of the MAg program has been developed, projects from the current faculty have been collected and program examples analyzed. All these materials will be posted on the College’s web page for better availability. Thompson currently provides this information to each interested individual upon request.

3. Learning Outcomes (fixed)

A list of learning outcomes for the MAg program has been developed which is in accord with the OSU graduate learning outcomes. A copy of this document is attached as an appendix.

4. Assessment Plan (fixed)

An assessment plan has been developed and submitted to the graduate school. A copy of this document is attached as an appendix.

5. Major concentration area, major professor (fixed)

The student needs to have indicated and been accepted by a major professor before entering the program. Thompson acts as the liaison. He also educates CAS faculty and students about the specifics of the Mag program.

6. Marketing plan (in progress)

This is an area of active work including discussions among the faculty and administration for developing e-courses and maybe an online MAg degree.