

**2009 Annual Report
School of Agriculture**

April 1, 2010

I. Response to Data

a. Student credit hour production

- i. Lower, Upper, and Graduate level credit production has remained stable for the past five years.
- ii. During the past five years, there has been a doubling of dual credit hours (216 up to 542) produced which has countered the decline of entering freshmen who are attending Community Colleges. While there has been a slight reduction in traditional instructional format, interactive video and Internet delivery have both increased 3X which has been to serve the "Pathways" program for completion of degrees at Community College sites. While small in number, the off campus offerings have increased but the large and significant evening offerings have declined (from 1564 down to 1232) due to the reduction in funding.

- b. Student headcount for Fall 09 was 400 and degrees conferred during FY 09 were 99. These are in the normal range for the past five years. A listing of the retention in the various programs is also listed here and also addressed in part d, below.

| Major | Enrolled 2009 | % Retention |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| AG Bus/Ag Enterprise | 17 | 76 |
| AG Bus/Ag Finance | 23 | 95 |
| AG Bus/Ag Marketing | 23 | 92 |
| Ag Education | 41 | 83 |
| Technology Education | 7 | 71 |
| Wildlife Con& M | 59 | 82 |
| Horticulture | 23 | 55 |
| Agronomy | 28 | 92 |
| General Ag | 25 | 94 |
| General Ag--Ag Com | 9 | 88 |
| General Ag--BAS | 20 | 83 |
| General Ag--Food Plant | 0 | 0 |
| Animal Science | 99 | 85 |
| Graduate Majors--All | 26 | 70 |
| | 400 | 83 |

- c. Sections
- i. Number of sections by course level
 1. The number of lower level sections decreased by 33% due to the elimination of courses beginning fall '09.
 2. The number of upper level sections decreased by only 1%.
 3. The percentage of decrease in both lower and upper level sections reflects the appropriate numbers to meet student needs.
 - ii. Average section size by course level Number of sections by faculty classification in a five year average were 100, 32.2, and 14.2 for Tenured/Tenure eligible and Other Regular Faculty, respectively. These numbers indicate stability in the productivity and that most are being taught by regular tenure track faculty with specialty areas being covered by supplemental faculty.
 - iii. Average section size, by faculty classification in a five year average, were 19.74, 12.44, and 14.27 for the Tenured/Tenure Eligible, Regular, and Supplemental Faculty, respectively. These numbers reflect that higher teaching loads on average are taught by tenure track faculty which is what students and parents would expect from a high quality program.
- d. Student success
- i. Retention from first to second fall semesters has increased from 68% in 2004 to 83% in 2009. A range of 55 to 95% was experienced during this past year among the various programs in Agriculture. These numbers reflect a responsive program and one having many student activities supervised by faculty and staff.
 - ii. Learning outcomes and assessment measures were compiled from exit interviews, exit tests and surveys of graduates. Appropriate responses have resulted in continuous program improvements.
- e. Faculty scholarship
- i. Refereed articles - 20
 - ii. Books and chapters in books - 0
 - iii. Presentations - 22
 - iv. Non-refereed articles - 8

f. Grants \$1.352M

| SRP# | PI | Amount Awarded |
|-------|--|----------------|
| 09105 | Rimal, A | \$7,244 |
| 09206 | Webb, G; Walker, E | \$4,257 |
| 09219 | Qiu, W | \$230,483 |
| 08050 | Norgren, M; Wilker, K | \$295,433 |
| 09171 | Rimal, A | \$19,390 |
| 09011 | Irwin, L | \$58,472 |
| 06140 | Odneal, M | \$3,500 |
| 10017 | Pszczolkowski, M Odneal, M; Avery, J; | \$6,210 |
| 10027 | Howard, S | \$20,700 |
| 10036 | Elliott, A | \$476,000 |
| 05161 | Qiu, W; Avery, J | \$23,674 |
| 10121 | Qui, W; Kovacs, L | \$206,968 |
| | | \$1,352,331 |

- g. Foundation
 - i. Total scholarship amount awarded – approx. \$55,000
 - ii. Departmental donations – Over \$1M during 2008/09/10
- h. Faculty service
 - i. Refereed papers reviewed - 15
 - ii. Texts reviewed
 - iii. Proposals reviewed
 - iv. Faculty advisors to student organizations - 15
 - v. Faculty chairs of university committees
 - vi. Faculty chairs of college committees
 - vii. Leadership positions in professional associations

II. Update on program review action plan/strategic plan (what you accomplished, what is in progress, etc.)

Excerpts from the Executive Summary of External Review Team – February, 2010

“Why is Agriculture different?” During the review, evidence was provided at every level to provide answers to this question. Following are reasons why Agriculture at Missouri State is somewhat different from other Departments/Schools/Units:

- Management of multiple facilities and faculty/staff employees in multiple locations, some 60-80 miles from campus
- Broad base and scope of operation includes not only academic component but also extension and outreach activities
- Dealing with multiple budgets that include significant revenue streams and operational expenses
- Enormous fund raising responsibilities/opportunities
- Interface of chair/faculty/staff to alumni and graduates
- Relationships and ties with surrounding Agricultural Industry
- Strong ties to area secondary Education schools through Agricultural Education and FFA

Major/Critical Recommendations

- The current administrative infrastructure of the Darr School of Agriculture is not sustainable and may not be conducive to fostering future development opportunities when Dr. Elliott retires. It needs to be modified.
- The School of Agriculture needs to become an autonomous unit, either remaining as the Darr School of Agriculture or be elevated to the Darr College of Agriculture, reporting directly to the provost.
 - (Note: The recommended change in administrative structure is NOT based on any belief that the current Dean has in any way impeded the progress of the unit; rather she has supported the unit as much as possible while serving 8 other units. This recommendation IS based on setting up the best organizational structure that will allow the unit to flourish and grow.)
- The department head, Dr. Elliott, operates as a dean and should be elevated to the level of dean, answering to the provost.
- Appropriate funding to allow for the successful transition to the autonomous unit needs to be transferred at the time of transition.
- A management team needs to be established quickly to allow for its grooming by Dr. Elliott to assist with the myriad management decisions that accompany the unit. That proposed management team consists of the dean, associate dean, assistant dean of student affairs and at least one, possibly two program coordinators.
- Additional support staff needs to be hired as the satellite facilities expand, such as the Darr Ag Center and once the Journagan Ranch is obtained, including technicians and a development officer.

- The additional resources needed for these positions and to maintain the Journagan Ranch must come from a source external to the existing School of Agriculture's budget.
- The existing maintenance staff at Mountain Grove and their supporting funding be transferred from Facilities Management to the Mountain Grove budget within the School of Agriculture
- Resist offsetting budget cuts at the University through savings anticipated with numerous upcoming retirements and half-time contracts in the School of Agriculture.

Suggested Timeline of Administrative Leadership Changes for Consideration

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| July 1, 2010 | Darr School of Agriculture becomes Autonomous Unit reporting to the Provost |
| July 1, 2010 | Anson Elliott title change to Dean |
| July 1, 2010 | Present Director of Student Services title change to Assistant to the Dean for Student Services and Public Affairs |
| July 1, 2010 | Academic Program Coordinator named to assist with Academic operations |
| July 1- June 30, 2011 | Administrative Support help given to Anson in the area of Operations and Development or greatest need to assist with Mountain Grove/Journagan |
| Fall, 2011 | Begin Search for Dean, School of Agriculture to begin July 1, 2012 |
| July 1, 2012 | New Dean begins |
| July 1, 2012 | Anson Elliott assume Associate Dean/Director of Operations and Development (full time or half time, at his choosing) with management oversight responsibilities for Mountain Grove and Journagan Ranch and Development responsibilities with Corporate and Alumni Relations |