

Summary of Input From Faculty and Staff During 3 Curriculum Fora Held During Fall 2004

Ag Cabinet

November 5, 2004

Curriculum Renewal

- Last major revision was in 1992
- 2004/05 College priority to review and renew curriculum to improve recruitment and to better serve stakeholder needs
- First step: The dean hosted 3 sessions to listen to faculty and staff...
- Curriculum belongs to faculty

Here are the top
12 suggestions

Counting down from # 12
(but in no particular order)

A broad view of agriculture...

A balance between:

11

- Production Ag
 - Traditional production areas of crops and livestock
 - Cows, plows, sows
 - As production oriented programs close in surrounding states we could attract students to these areas of ISU strength

#12

- “New” Agriculture
 - Urban agriculture
 - Urban forestry
 - Value added
 - Food safety
 - Basic/bio sciences
 - Human health
 - Environmental horticulture

#9

- Life Sciences
 - Biology
 - Biochemistry
 - Biophysics
 - Human health

#10

- Environmental Sciences
 - Ecology
 - Environmental biology
 - Biorenewable resources
 - Biodiversity
 - Natural resource management

#7

- Systems Thinking
 - Holistic view
 - Complex problem analysis
 - Integration of knowledge gained in individual courses

#8

- Interdisciplinary Approaches
 - Capstone experience
 - Block approaches to studying a theme, eg: energy
 - Team teaching

#5

- Professional Skills
(soft skills, life skills)
 - problem solving
 - communication
 - critical thinking
 - teamwork

#6

- Learner centered focus in:
 - teaching and learning
 - advising
 - learning communities
 - internships

#3

- Experiential Learning
 - Internships
 - Study abroad
 - Lab experience in courses
 - Ag 450, teaching farms, and other specialized teaching facilities

#4

- Undergrad Research
 - Mentoring of undergraduates
 - Senior thesis

#1

- Entrepreneurship and Business
 - Experience working with entrepreneurs
 - Courses on entrepreneurship
 - Understanding business culture

#2

- Global Perspective
 - Study abroad
 - Courses with international content
 - Cross cultural skills
 - Diversity

Other Important Points

- Stakeholders are key to informing our curriculum process
- Survey stakeholders and make community visits to understand needs
- Involve community colleges in discussion
- Need to attract students with farm and non-farm backgrounds
- Rewards and incentives must be in place to encourage innovation in curriculum and to recognize outstanding teaching