

**“The Tipping Point”
Implementation Plan
College of Agriculture
2/15/07**

Section 1 – Classroom Learning

a. Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Assessment Plans

Each major and the graduate program in the College of Ag is in various stages of developing and/or implementing rigorous SLO assessment plans. Each program has been functioning on a set of progress report deadlines (Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 15) and a final plan deadline of May 15.

The Dean’s Office, the College Assessment Committee and the Ag Dept. Chairs have developed a PowerPoint presentation and a report template during Fall 2007 and Winter 2007 to facilitate this process. The template includes process but also challenges the programs with examples of how to create measurable outcomes with criteria for performance. The template has been constructed to facilitate yearly updates so as to make the SLO assessment activity a dynamic event in the yearly curricular cycle for each program.

b. Learn-by-doing

All programs in the College of Ag have always been learn-by-doing with heavy components of activities/laboratory, internships, and/or senior projects. Internships and many senior projects involve field experience either on-campus or out in industry.

c. First Year Experience (FYE) and Student Learning Outcomes

The College of Ag has had a First Year Experience for the past 10 years. This includes AG 100, AG 101, AMM 101, AHS, 104 and FN 100. All incoming freshmen take AG 100 and AG 101. AG 100 focuses on students taking charge of their college experience and quality of learning. AG 101 focuses on subject matter expertise in the agriculture, food and fiber/apparel industries. The other courses are specific to the student’s chosen major.

A college-wide AG Core Course Committee is currently reviewing AG 101 to enhance the subject matter and during Spring Quarter AG 100 will undergo a continuing review focusing on coordination with AG 101 to meet FYE SLOs.

A college-wide FYE/Retention Committee will be developing a senior exit survey and administering it during Spring Quarter to gather assessment data on the College’s FYE

program. Some departments have been using a similar tool, but our effort is to bring standardization across the departments.

Section 2 – Learning Organization

The College of Ag provides many services to its faculty, staff and students to facilitate the customer-service aspects necessary to support a learning organization.

a. Activities to Support Faculty

The College has created 3 Blackboard Organizations to facilitate activity and create visibility for all internal operations and outcomes in the college. By having central repositories for curriculum documents, RTP documents, reports and review documents, committee activities, etc. the faculty know where to look for information, forms, etc. that previously required a lot of time to track down.

The Dept. Chairs and Program Coordinators have been meeting to develop a college-wide instructional assessment form with a college based core of questions while providing additional opportunity for departments/programs to add discipline specific questions. This should be completed in the next 4-6 weeks. This is being coordinated with major revisions to 4 of the 6 RTP documents in the college that are due for revision.

b. Activities to Support Staff

In an effort to include staff in more of the academic operations of the college, all staff can see the College of Ag Blackboard Organization. The ASCs and the Dean's Office staff can also see the Department Chair's Blackboard Organization. The college now has an internal server capability that is being used more in some areas than others. This has facilitated organization and visibility of key documents in the daily functioning of the college.

During Spring 2007 a "brainstorming" session will be held with the Dean's Office, the Dept. Chairs and the ASCs to determine further actions to facilitate uses of Blackboard, the servers and other activities to streamline operations in the college. This will be followed by Summer training (as needed) for Fall 2007 implementation.

c. Activities to Support Students

All 7 Departments/Programs in the College of Ag now have Blackboard Organizations with varying amounts and types of information to support students in advising, job/internship opportunities, information about department/program events and activities, etc. Some sites have been in existence since 2004-2005 (FN and FST) while others were set-up in January 2007 (Plant Science).

The College Advising Committee started meeting in Fall 2006 to develop better advising tools to put in each of the Dept./Program Blackboard sites. They will continue their work throughout the rest of the academic year.

AMM started holding a Senior Meeting each quarter in 2005-2006. The College has held two college-wide Senior Meetings in each of Fall 2006 and Winter 2007 quarters and will hold another two in Spring 2007. Attendance has been growing at the college-wide meetings and informal feedback to date has been very positive.

Section 3 – Budget Allocation

The college will provide budget support for:

- Activities to support faculty
- Activities to support staff
- Activities to support students

The college will provide budget support to enhance the College of Ag Fall Conference. This will be done by assessing the development needs of faculty, staff and technicians to determine special presenters, speakers and or trainers and workshops for Fall Conference. The college will then explore training opportunities for faculty with the Faculty Center for Professional Development and the University HR Office for staff. Based on the determination of actual training programs, the College will develop an assessment plan for continuous improvement. While the college already sponsors an Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Advisor of the Year and Staff of the Year awards program, additional recognition and rewards activities will be developed as the above activities are completed.