

## Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

### 1a. Follow up to Academic Board Phase 1 Review

The Faculty's Teaching and Learning programs were reviewed by the Academic Board in May 2002. The Review Team concluded that the Faculty was following good practices in the areas of equipping students with generic skills, attracting local and international postgraduate students and research led teaching. Students consider staff approachable, and good initiatives were identified in teaching and learning. The Review Team recommended that the Faculty give consideration to improving practices in the areas of rewarding good teachers, communication, input into the curricula of service units, staff-student liaison committee, induction and orientation of new staff, resources for research students, student feedback, and alerting students to their IP rights and responsibilities. The Faculty's responses to the recommendations of the Review Team are outlined in the following table.

#### Implementation of recommendations of the Academic Board Review of the Faculty's Teaching and Learning programs in 2002

| Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <p>1. That although informal mechanisms are working well, due mainly to the small size of the Faculty, more effective formal mechanisms should be introduced. This would aid in the dissemination of information to all staff.</p> | <p>To better disseminate information to students and staff, Faculty will by the end of 2003 significantly upgrade its website and printed material. The project is being undertaken with the assistance from a grant from the Teaching Improvement Fund for 2003. Separate password-protected intranet sites are being developed for students and staff.</p> <p>The goal is to have a separate webpage for each unit of study, that will include information on the expectations of students and assessment standards, how the teaching relates to generic skills, teaching material appropriate for electronic distribution, and if relevant, any related research being carried out in the Faculty. Information on policies and generic aspects of the undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs (eg, special consideration, the Professional Experience Program, field trips, generic skills, OH &amp; S issues, IP, etc.) will also be upgraded and collated for electronic dissemination and preparation of booklets. Electronic academic bulletin boards will be developed for undergraduate and postgraduate students, and staff.</p> |
| <p>2. That the Faculty consider ways of informing research higher degree students of their rights and responsibilities under the University Intellectual Property rule.</p>                                                        | <p>Faculty produced a Manual and held an Induction Day for postgraduate students in 2003 (Manual included in Appendix 3)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>3. That the staff communicate the University generic skills to the students more clearly, and that these skills should be more carefully mapped to the curriculum in order to ensure consistent outcomes.</p>                   | <p>Staff have been advised to address this recommendation in their teaching</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>4. That further efforts are needed to improve the quality of teaching across the Faculty.</p>                                                                                                                                   | <p>The Faculty's intranet sites will provide standardised unit outlines, details of assessment, goals and expectations, appropriate content material.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>From 2003, Discipline Leaders and Unit Coordinators will implement processes to review teaching programs in the discipline groupings for quality and relevance of teaching and relevance of assessment to learning objectives as specified in unit outlines. This issue will be addressed at the Faculty's planning forum in June</p> <p>All new staff appointed to the Faculty will be encouraged to participate in programs from teaching development</p> <p>The Faculty's 2003 Budget has an allocation of funds for teaching improvements and initiatives, to be developed by Discipline Leaders and T &amp; L Committee under new structure</p> |
| 5. That the Faculty consider introducing a more consistent induction process for new and casual staff.                                                                                       | To be considered by AGMAC under new structure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 6. That the Faculty consider the development of a Faculty level teaching excellence award.                                                                                                   | Faculty has established a Teaching Excellence Award, which will be available from 2003                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 7. That the Faculty nominate lecturers from Soil Science 2 for a University excellence in teaching award.                                                                                    | The key staff member will be on SSP in 2003/04                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 8. That the Faculty investigate ways of providing more input into the curricula of teaching provided by other faculties.                                                                     | To be considered by Faculty T & L Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9. That the Faculty considers ways of stressing the link between research and teaching to students.                                                                                          | Staff have been advised to address this recommendation in their teaching                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 10. That the introduction of a formal induction program for research students and opportunities for peer review and support be considered.                                                   | Induction Day for postgraduate students held in 2003, and Postgraduate Manual produced                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11. That the Faculty consider ways in which the annual progress reports could be made more informative for students.                                                                         | Will be implemented with 2003 cycle of Annual Reports                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12. That the Faculty consider making improvements in the resources and accommodation for research students.                                                                                  | Student computing facilities greatly expanded by purchase of 30 new computers and conversion of Mac computer lab to PC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13. That staff consider providing feedback in class, as it would save time taken in individual feedback through their open door policy, and relieve pressure on staff.                       | Staff wish to maintain accessibility to students, which is considered to be a strength of Faculty's teaching                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 14. That the Faculty undertake more work in the articulation and communication of assessment standards to students.                                                                          | Establishment of Faculty intranet site for each unit of study now makes this possible                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 15. That the Faculty instigate a process which acknowledges the problems raised and addresses the answers to them. The current process discourages students from coming forward with issues. | Faculty/Student Liaison Committee processes under review; input to be sought from next meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |