

## IPSS Steering Committee Meeting

10.07.19

Attendees: Carlos Rodriguez Lopez, Rebecca McGrail, Alan Fryar, Bruce Downie, Mark Coyne, Jason Unrine, Abbie Cain, Umma Fatema

1. Approval of the IPSS block funding budget
  - a. Same amount of money as FY2019 – reallocated slightly different
    - i. Presentations and conference travel
    - ii. Competitions – travel to weed science, soil science, crop science
    - iii. IPSS GSA - \$4,500
    - iv. Stipend supplements – new and old outstanding M.S. and Ph.D. students
    - v. Symposium awards
    - vi. IPSS GSA service stipend
  - b. Approved
2. PLS 768 requirement
  - a. Thesis plan requires an additional 6 credit hours to equal a total 30 credit hour program
  - b. PLS 768 (variable) will serve as thesis credit hours – will be a 6 hour required course
    - i. Should spread out the credit hours over multiple semesters (i.e. guidance: student should be enrolled for 2 hours each semester)
  - c. EES has used 748 which is a non-credit bearing for the final semester
  - d. Students no longer have to be enrolled
  - e. EES has used the model that if a student enters in August – committee selected by end of first semester, proposal approved at beginning of second semester
3. Update on status of ESEE specialty area
  - a. Change the paperwork to include the 30 credit hour thesis plan with PLS 768 approved
4. Changing all PLS 6xx and above to IPS prefix
  - a. Don't know at the moment if this will be a major or minor change
  - b. Wait until the ESEE update has been approved
5. Drop the GRE as an admissions requirement
  - a. This would follow suit with several Ivy League schools
  - b. What other tangible evaluation material from an applicant could be used in its place
  - c. Graduate School is no longer requiring the GRE on the fellowship application
    - i. Emeritus faculty fellowship required Rebecca McGrail to submit her scores
  - d. There is nothing that precludes a faculty member from requesting a GRE score
  - e. Mark will draft letters of justification to submit to drop the GRE for the IPSS program
6. New assessment program plan due April 2020
  - a. Current assessment areas: Knowledge, professionalism, skills, and communication
    - i. Annual report in terms of coursework, CV
    - ii. Terminal CV submitted at time of graduation
    - iii. 95% response rate
    - iv. Mark compiles a report and submits it
  - b. Mark has the template for the new plan passed on from Tricia Coakley's office
  - c. EES has the committee complete an evaluation at start of program; follow-up at time of defense
7. University Scholars program (4+1)
  - a. A draft ABT program is in process but will need updates to include the 30 credit hour change
  - b. Additional programs to begin: AES, NRE, HRT
  - c. Only works for the master's programs, not Ph.D.

- i. Can apply in junior year
  - ii. 12 credit hours to count toward both bachelor's and master's degrees
  - iii. 12 hours taken in senior year
- d. Changes to admission process in IPSS program
  - i. How does assistantship support work during the 4<sup>th</sup> year vs. 5<sup>th</sup> year?
  - ii. How do potential research mentors factor into USP admission?
  - iii. How do scholarships from undergraduate program work?
- e. What other programs? Civil engineering, Physics, Biological engineering, BAE
- f. Decisions about USPs are made by a joint steering committee from the undergraduate and graduate programs