

IPSS Steering Committee Meeting
02.07.19

Attendees: Carrie Knott, Mark Coyne, Jason Unrine, Juan Di Salvo, Bruce Downie, Alan Fryar, Chris Barton, Abbie Cain

I. Graduate Student Symposium

- a. April 10th is the new symposium date
 - i. Don Sparks and Bill Witt have been invited
- b. Move the symposium to once per year model → first try will be in January 2020
 - i. One issue with this model is how PLS 772 lines up
 1. Grade would be based on practice presentation in class (772) and organizing symposium
 2. Instructor for course would be the organizer of the symposium
 - ii. There are some ideas from Carrie about how to normalize scores for the symposium
 - iii. Incentive for students to participate in the symposium (aside from requirement to present once/year) are the monetary awards
 - iv. Requirement to present once/year could be met by being enrolled in PLS 772, participating in symposium, presenting at 3MT competition, or exit seminar
 1. If, for some reason, a student was unable to make one of these options work then alternate arrangements could be made by committee approval
 2. A survey could determine which students will fall into which category to satisfy this requirements
 - v. The venue for symposium could be the library or student center
 - vi. NRES and Tracy Farmer both have symposiums in the Fall

II. Retiring the Forestry concentration and replacing with Environmental and Ecosystem Sciences

- a. List of courses handout
- b. Biogeochemistry – Elisa normally teaches the course; could it be co-taught and changed to a 600-level?
- c. Add IPSS 610, 625, 772 and stats course to requirements
- d. Send comments on the concentration to Jason
- e. This area must work hand-in-hand with the Soil Science concentration due to significant overlap
- f. Students should declare a concentration upon entering the program – could be done with a form in the first semester
 - i. See attached form
- g. Hours for degree completion should be clarified in the handbook as well as the stats requirement – can be any graduate level statistics course from UK or another university (i.e. taken while earning Master's degree elsewhere)
- h. How would students in this area drop back to earn a degree if this was offered only at the PhD-level? Would they be able to complete a Plan B Master's degree?

III. Next Meeting

- a. Look at other concentration areas, firm up the Environmental and Ecosystem Sciences and Soil Science areas
- b. Encourage the other concentration/disciplinary areas to harmonize with the model created on the handout (i.e. required courses, core courses, elective courses, certificate courses – which could overlap with electives)