

IPSS Steering Committee Meeting  
12.06.18

I. Online program being developed out of Arts & Sciences in Environmental Sciences (Coyne)

- a. Don't think this is a direct conflict to adding a track in IPSS

II. Symposium (Unrine)

- a. Students had the opportunity to sign-up for Fall or Spring online
- b. Mandatory presentations for 2<sup>nd</sup> year and above
- c. Should symposium be moved to once/year before field season? Or pre-Fall term?
  - i. Everyone would present – poster or seminar-style
  - ii. Before Spring term
  - iii. Think about this as a possibility
  - iv. Committee of grad students to organize
- d. PLS 772 Seminar – what does that mean?
  - i. Used for internal/external speakers
  - ii. Students help organize symposium; present; presentation grade is course grade
    1. Extension agents – credit by exam
  - iii. Does this stay as a requirement?
    1. No such requirement in new STO program
    2. Make description & requirements clear
  - iv. Present at symposium and organize
    1. How does this work if symposium dates change?
    2. How long can an “I” grade be carried?
  - v. Geosciences moved to seminar attendance and proposal development in a communicating science course
  - vi. Coyne will draft syllabus of 772 to clarify objectives; the course will stay on the books as is
    1. Must be taken within first 2 semesters
  - vii. When is this the most valuable to students?
    1. Katherine believes the second year because students have seen everything

III. Admissions and Enrollments

- a. Accepted 14; 7 enrolled for 2018-2019
  - i. Low selectivity, high yield is the goal from the Graduate School
  - ii. IPSS looks the reverse because we accept only those with a home/faculty advisor
- b. 50-50 domestic-international; high female; slightly more PhD than MS
- c. Do we change the standards?
  - i. GRE tied to fellowships (75<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup> percentile) and a minimum GPA
  - ii. If pre-selection is already happening, no reason to change standards
  - iii. Reach more students through recruitment rather than raise standards
  - iv. Competitive with peer institutions on stipends
  - v. Improve online presence and word of mouth
    1. How to promote openings outside UK

IV. Courses

- a. 400G courses – originated from BCTC
  - i. Must be taken outside discipline area to count toward degree
  - ii. Change these courses to 500-level
    1. Wetland Delineation (who will teach? Elisa? Barton?)
    2. Biogeochemistry – 600-level?

### 3. Soil Nutrient – 500-level

- b. On-demand course offerings – which courses should be converted?
- c. EES uses special topics for courses
  - i. 2/3 MS; 20-25 in classes; 35 total students in the EES program
- d. Floating 697 courses with topics
- e. Defining courses in concentrations
  - i. Helps with recruitment
- f. What courses are standard for disciplinary area?
  - i. Stats course is needed specific to IPSS
  - ii. Disciplinary area leads on courses: Coyne – soils; Downie – hort; Pfeiffer – crop; Hunt – plant bio; Unrine - environmental