Annual Assessment Report

Academic Year: 2014-15

Department: Agricultural Economics and Economics

Program(s): Agricultural Business and Economics

1. What Was Done
   As is always the case, the following three objectives are central to both programs.
   1. Our graduates will develop high end critical thinking skills
   2. Our graduates will develop effective communication skills
   3. Our graduates will receive programs that enable them to understand and cogently discuss current economic issues

2. What Data Were Collected

Student evaluations and senior exit interviews form the basis of this assessment. Other data are also collected including detailed Danforth reviews of faculty teaching for candidates for retention, tenure and promotion. Feedback was also obtained from alumni about the long run impacts of the program.

3. What Was Learned

   1. Ninety three percent or more students indicate that their critical thinking skills have become highly developed. Employers note that graduates from DAEE are exceptional in this regard
   2. Student evaluations from the capstone courses in economics and agricultural business indicate that those course and the program have substantially and substantively increased oral and written communication skills for over 94 percent of all students.
   3. This year the department has implemented creative and innovative learning experiences for gifted juniors and seniors through a dynamic peer leadership program. Gifted undergraduates provide peer leadership for students in ECNS 101 and in a seminar context with the professor develop effective leadership and learning strategies. Feedback from peer leaders and students has been exceptionally positive.

4. How We Responded
   The department’s programs are highly successful and the DAEE will continue to focus on excellence in these three areas.