Annual Assessment Report

Academic Year: 2015-16
Department: Agricultural Economics and Economics
Program(s): Agricultural Business; Economics

1. What Was Done
The Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics (DAEE) has an assessment plan that have been developed and voted on by the faculty. Following this assessment plan, the undergraduate program has consistently focused on the following three objectives as being central to both the Agricultural Business and Economics programs.

1. Our graduates will develop high end critical thinking skills
2. Our graduates will develop effective communication skills
3. Our graduates will receive educational programming that enables them to understand and cogently discuss current economic issues

2. What Data Were Collected
Student evaluations and senior exit interviews are annually evaluated to assess the Department's progress in meeting the three objectives and fulfilling the specific goals in the assessment plan. Other data are also collected including detailed Danforth reviews of faculty teaching for candidates for retention, tenure, and promotion. When possible, feedback from program alumni is collected to assess the long run impacts of the program.

3. What Was Learned
1. Over 80% of students indicated that their critical thinking and assessment skills have become highly developed.
2. Employers continue to recruit heavily from the program for summer internships and full-time positions after graduation.
3. The majority of student exit interviews indicated that capstone classes in agricultural business and economics substantially and substantively increased oral and written communication skills.
4. In 2015-16, the department organized an experiential learning course with an international experience that enabled students to work with industry mentors to solve real-world problems and have hands-on learning in an international setting.

4. How We Responded
The DAEE has highly successful undergraduate programs that continue to meet the objectives stated in the assessment plan. The department will continue focusing on and innovating to ensure that it remains excellent in the three areas.