Summary of Input From Faculty and Staff During 3 Curriculum Fora Held During Fall 2004

Ag Cabinet
November 5, 2004
Curriculum Renewal

• Last major revision was in 1992
• 2004/05 College priority to review and renew curriculum to improve recruitment and to better serve stakeholder needs
• First step: The dean hosted 3 sessions to listen to faculty and staff…
• Curriculum belongs to faculty
Here are the top 12 suggestions

Counting down from # 12
(but in no particular order)
A broad view of agriculture…
A balance between:

# 11

• Production Ag
  – Traditional production areas of crops and livestock
  – Cows, plows, sows
  – As production oriented programs close in surrounding states we could attract students to these areas of ISU strength

# 12

• “New” Agriculture
  – Urban agriculture
  – Urban forestry
  – Value added
  – Food safety
  – Basic/bio sciences
  – Human health
  – Environmental horticulture
#9

- Life Sciences
  - Biology
  - Biochemistry
  - Biophysics
  - Human health

#10

- Environmental Sciences
  - Ecology
  - Environmental biology
  - Biorenewable resources
  - Biodiversity
  - Natural resource management
#7

- Systems Thinking
  - Holistic view
  - Complex problem analysis
  - Integration of knowledge gained in individual courses

#8

- Interdisciplinary Approaches
  - Capstone experience
  - Block approaches to studying a theme, eg: energy
  - Team teaching
#5

- Professional Skills (soft skills, life skills)
  - problem solving
  - communication
  - critical thinking
  - teamwork

#6

- Learner centered focus in:
  - teaching and learning
  - advising
  - learning communities
  - internships
#3

- Experiential Learning
  - Internships
  - Study abroad
  - Lab experience in courses
  - Ag 450, teaching farms, and other specialized teaching facilities

#4

- Undergrad Research
  - Mentoring of undergraduates
  - Senior thesis
#1

- Entrepreneurship and Business
  - Experience working with entrepreneurs
  - Courses on entrepreneurship
  - Understanding business culture

#2

- Global Perspective
  - Study abroad
  - Courses with international content
  - Cross cultural skills
  - Diversity
Other Important Points

• Stakeholders are key to informing our curriculum process
• Survey stakeholders and make community visits to understand needs
• Involve community colleges in discussion

• Need to attract students with farm and non-farm backgrounds
• Rewards and incentives must be in place to encourage innovation in curriculum and to recognize outstanding teaching