

**Plant Pathology
Implementation Plan Report
FY 2016
Based on 2015-2016 Periodic Program Review**

The recent Plant Pathology departmental periodic program review resulted in twelve recommendations. This, the first annual implementation plan report following review, includes progress on only those recommendations which have relevant information to report at this time. Progress on the other recommendations will be reported in the coming years.

1. Create two new Regular Title Series tenure-track faculty lines in the department.

To be addressed in 2017

2. Identify relevant laboratory space for the new faculty hires

Not applicable (no new faculty hires).

3. Provide startup funds for the new faculty hires, including adequate funds for major equipment.

Not applicable (no new faculty hires).

4. Replace plant growth chambers with current, more efficient models, particularly in the containment suite.

Assessment Method: Number of new growth chambers and total square feet.

Results: Three Conviron PGC-Flex plant growth chambers were purchased. All are in 2-tier configuration, totaling 228 square feet in usable growth space.

Analysis of results and reflection: These new growth chambers will allow studies of pathogens of rice, maize and sorghum with BSL2-level containment, greatly enhancing prospects for research, student training, and funding of the program.

Ongoing improvements: Maintenance of growth facilities including greenhouses, growth chambers, and associated infrastructure.

5. Avail institutional resources that have been implemented to help increase applications from traditionally underrepresented minorities.

To be addressed in 2017.

6. Develop a comprehensive graduate student orientation program for both domestic and international students.

To be addressed in 2017.

7. Promote an active social committee to foster interactions among all members of the department.

To be addressed in 2017.

8. Develop plans to promote travel to professional meetings by all graduate students in the department.

Assessment Method: Number of students attending, and number presenting, at scientific/professional meetings.

Results: In CY 2016, there were four presentations by UK Plant Pathology students at national or regional meetings. Two of the student presentations were funded in part through the block grant from the graduate school to the department.

Analysis of results and reflection: The number of student presentations fell slightly short of the target, which for a total of 12 students in the program, was six presentations within the calendar year. The goal is for each graduate student to participate in at least one meeting every two years. This is important for their professional development, to enhance their knowledge base and to become proficient in oral and written communications in their discipline.

Ongoing improvements: Faculty and students are being informed of this expectation, and of the availability of funds from the graduate school (currently provided as part of a block grant to the department) to help defray expenses.

9. Examine new sources of funding to support in-state travel for extension faculty and develop plans with the Associate Dean for Extension to adequately fund the extension programs within the department.

To be addressed in 2017.

10. The Department should discuss with the college administration possible financial support for undergraduate research projects, where such support can aid in graduate student recruitment directed towards underserved minorities.

To be addressed in 2017.

11. Encourage faculty to take sabbatical leaves to improve their skill sets and refresh their perspectives on their careers.

To be addressed in 2017.

12. While the need for additional space may result in a college level analysis of space allocation, every effort should be made to keep the Plant Pathology research and extension faculty in the Plant Sciences Building.

Assessment Method: Space inventory

Results: Although there was movement of some laboratory allocations within the Plant Sciences Building, there was no movement between buildings, and no new locations in other buildings.

Analysis of results and reflection: The department continues to be physically coherent to the maximum practical degree. There is a continued necessity for at least one faculty member to be located at the UKREC in Princeton, KY, and for greenhouse and diagnostic staff to be located in the greenhouse complex, all other faculty, students and staff in the department are housed in the Plant Sciences Building.

Ongoing improvements: None required.