ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
AND
STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE
Year: 2006

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Section 1. Goals and Accomplishments

Goal 1: Be a leader in research at the state and national level.

- Multidisciplinary graduate program with 43 students which includes 26 candidates for doctoral degrees.
- Reviewed by an established external Scientific Advisory Board (industry, academia, government leaders) who provided an annual assessment of the academic and curricular program.
- Journal club seminars were implemented as part of an effort to improve students' ability to critically evaluate the scientific literature and present research findings in a formal setting.
- Recognized as having the most members (N=59), of any academic institution in the world, represented in the global scientific professional society, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC).
- Large number of faculty editors involved in major environmental toxicology journals reside in TIEHH.
- Facilitated publication of a major textbook.
- Classified by TTU Graduate School 2006 formal peer review as the top Environmental Toxicology academic program in the country.
- One of our current graduate students (Jordan Smith) is Texas Tech's first EPA STAR fellow.
- Have maintained a 100% post-graduation employment rate for our graduate students.
- We have had four ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) fellows in the 8 years of the ARCS program existence.

Goal 2: Increase and expand partnerships within Texas Tech and with external agencies.

- Hiring of Dr. Jaclyn Cañas, Assistant Professor of Environmental Chemistry and Dr. Celine Godard-Codding, Assistant Professor of Biochemical Toxicology, each bringing critical expertise that will contribute to the growth and enhancement of the TIEHH program.
- Invited multidisciplinary speakers for the graduate program who bring diverse backgrounds and expertise to addressing environmental issues.
- There were 2 joint degree students enrolled in the JD/MS and MS/MBA programs.

Goal 3: Commit to excellence in research and academics.

- Annual review of academic program by the external Science Advisory Board provided a detailed evaluation of the program and the Department was commended for its outstanding graduate program and its continued growth and success.
- Syngenta sponsored two Environmental Toxicology graduate student awards for an outstanding PhD student and for an outstanding MS student. The award includes a monetary award and travel funds to attend a conference/meeting.
- A Curriculum Committee and Admissions Committee met regularly to ensure accountability and continued improvement of the program. An evaluation of committee function and responsibilities was conducted and, as a result, the Admissions committee responsibilities were modified.
- Departmental stipends of approximately $226,000 were allocated to top graduate students to ensure that the program remains competitive and retains its ability to recruit top caliber students. The funds were allocated out of the TIEHH state budget.
Section 2. Universal Quantitative Data

There are no Universal Quantitative Data for this area/unit.
### Section 3a. Quantitative Information

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Section 3b. Qualitative Information.

- Diversity - Continued collaboration with the Honors College and Howard Hughes Medical Institute undergraduate students to provide research laboratory experience.
- Diversity - Demographics of enrolled graduate students, almost half of the TIEHH student body is female.
- Multidisciplinary Approaches: Continued collaboration with the TTU School of Law and the Rawls College of Business for joint degree opportunities.
- Outreach: Environmental Toxicology Graduate Student Association adopted a family for Christmas during the holiday season. They raised funds for food and gifts for the family.
- Recruitment - Students were recruited via a variety of mechanisms. This included targeted recruitment at the Annual SETAC meeting as well as at other professional and academic meetings attended throughout the year. It resulted in two specific new students.
- Multidisciplinary Approaches: Environmental Toxicology provided at least two academic/research seminars per month for the graduate students that included multidisciplinary speakers external to TIEHH and Texas Tech.
- Engagement - provided tours and visits for approximately 250 guests to educate them on academic and research opportunities.
- Excellence: Faculty (N=14 and N includes two Research Assistant Professors) published, have in review, or in final preparation at least 74 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters.
- Excellence: Baohong Zhang (PhD) and John Brausch (MS) received the Syngenta Outstanding Student Awards, as voted on by the faculty.
- Excellence: Two graduate students received Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) travel awards to participate in poster and platform presentations at the annual meetings.
- Excellence: Students in the Environmental Toxicology Program contribute to the mentoring process through its Graduate Student Association and an annual Toxicology Expo, which is a forum for students to present their research and is hosted by the Graduate Student Association.
- Excellence: Several faculty members participated in international trips to give seminars and organize international collaborations with various academic institutions.
- Excellence: Dr. Phil Smith was appointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.
- # Excellence: Dr. George Cobb was elected to the Board of Directors for the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.
- In August 2006, Environmental Toxicology held a faculty retreat which focused on academic program development and strategic planning. The overall strategic planning process at TTU was presented to faculty and ideas were developed for growing our academic and research programs.
Section 4. Strategic Planning Update.

There is no strategic plan update for the current year.

Commentary:
The Institute of Environmental and Human Health is approaching its ten year anniversary. The academic program has evolved and grown to around 40 graduate students, with the majority of the students at the doctoral level. In addition, our faculty has expanded over the last year (N = 16). Two new faculty (both female) joined in Fall 2006, and efforts are underway to incorporate these new faculty in the strategic planning process. In addition, these faculty are tremendously important in providing role models for our graduate student body and in adding additional dimensions to our research program. We anticipate that their expertise will significantly enhance grantsmanship within the Institute.

Implementation Plan:
The Institute is committed to maintaining focus on its core goals. At the same time, and as new faculty are added, this planning process must allow core goals to be evaluated and updated. Based on evaluation of core goals 1 and 2, our Institute is planning on finding sources of funding for additional graduate students to support our research program. In addition, we will be having a strategic planning faculty retreat. The goals of this retreat are to: 1) revise our strategic plan, 2) increase faculty participation in the strategic planning process, and 3) further distinguish our Institute strategic plan from the Departmental strategic plan.