Department of Agronomy
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011

2020 Report for NCAC-1
January 7-8, 2020 – Ponce, Puerto Rico

University Administration:

No major changes in the university administration, Wendy Wintersteen, former Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences just completed her second year as President.

The big university administration event has been the implementation of a new university level business management system called Workday. A new system was badly needed since we were running a lot of university business systems on 1970s mainframe computers. The system came online on July 1, 2019 and it has been challenging to say the least.

Simultaneous with that the university reorganized how we do business on campus by creating something called improved services delivery. Essentially it moved employees out of departments and into quasi-central locations. This change also happened on July 1, 2019.

After setting a record for enrollment in Fall of 2016 of 36,600 students (30,671 undergrads) our enrollment has fallen to 33,391 (28,294 undergrads) in Fall 2019. We are forecasting an additional decline for fall 2020, which is creating a very tight budget situation.

Faculty and staff pay increases the last few years have been meager – in July we got 1.75% increase, which has been the biggest in a while.

College Administration:

After over a year with an interim dean (Senior Associate Dean Joe Colletti), our new Dean, Dr. Daniel Robison, started in February 2019. Dr. Robison was formerly Dean of the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design at West Virginia University.

He has been working on his new leadership team. He recently appointed Dr. Jay Harmon as our Associate Dean of Extension. Dr. Harmon, from our Ag and Biosystems Engineering Department, had been serving as interim. Dr. David Acker, formerly our Associate Dean of Academic and Global Programs, has announced his intent to step away from Academic Programs and focus only on Global Programs. We currently have an internal search ongoing for our new Dean of Academic Innovation.

Our college enrollment peaked at 4,657 undergraduate students and 738 graduate students in Fall 2016 and as of Fall 2019 our enrollment has fallen to 4,169 undergraduate and 652 graduate students. This decrease in undergraduate enrollment is creating budget challenges for our college.

Departmental Administration:

Our college is going back to July 2016 to count faculty personnel changes from the point of view of deciding how to replace faculty. Since July 2016, we have had the following faculty deaths, retirements, or resignations: Loynachan (soils), Mullen (Crops), Christian (term, Crops), Laird (soils), Takle (meteorology), Wolt (Soils), Owen (Weeds), Arritt (death, Meteorology), Fehr (, 0.5 FTE, breeding),

Taylor (extension meteorology), Zdorkowski (term (0.5 FTE), advisor), Barb (term, Breeding), Westgate (crops), and Ciha (term (0.33 FTE), distance teaching).

We have hired the following: Licht (crops), Mahama (term, distance breeding), McDaniel (soils), Kabela (term(0.25 FTE), distance teaching), Devries (term, crops), Wiersema (term, education), Jha (weeds), Kwah-Mensa (term, distance education), Abendroth (term (0.25 FTE), distance education), Pilcher (term (0.5 FTE), distance education).

The summary is we lost 9.5 tenure FTEs and 2.8 term FTEs.

We hired 2 tenure-track FTEs and 5 term FTEs

We have no current faculty searches underway.

Students:

Agronomy set a record for undergraduate enrollment of 364 for Fall 2016. Since then you can see we are down nearly 100 students. We expect the decline to stabilize this year as our freshman classes have been constant for the last two years.

	2017	2018	2019
Total Agronomy majors	346	289	262
Agron 1st majors	323	273	254
Agron 2nd majors	22	16	8
Gender			
Male	207 (64%)	177 (61%)	156 (60%)
Female	116 (36%)	112 (39%)	106 (40%)
Residency			
Iowa	237 (70%)	215 (74%)	194 (74%)
Other	87 (30%)	74 (26%)	68 (26%)

	2017	2018	2019
Total New Students	**76**	**56**	**61**
Total Agronomy Freshman	48	40	45
Male	29	17	24
Female	19	23	21
Iowa	30	28	40
Other	18	12	5
Total Agronomy Transfer	28	16	16
Male	20	9	13
Female	8	7	3
Iowa	22	13	12
Other	6	3	4

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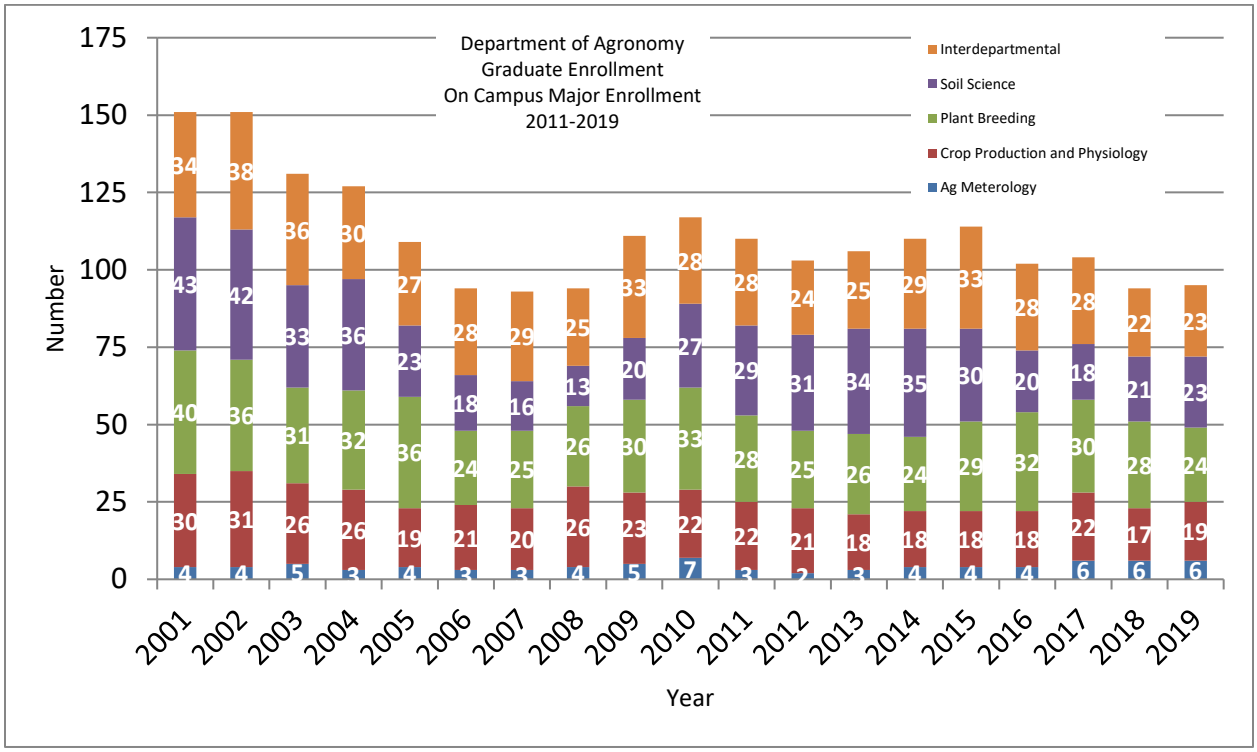
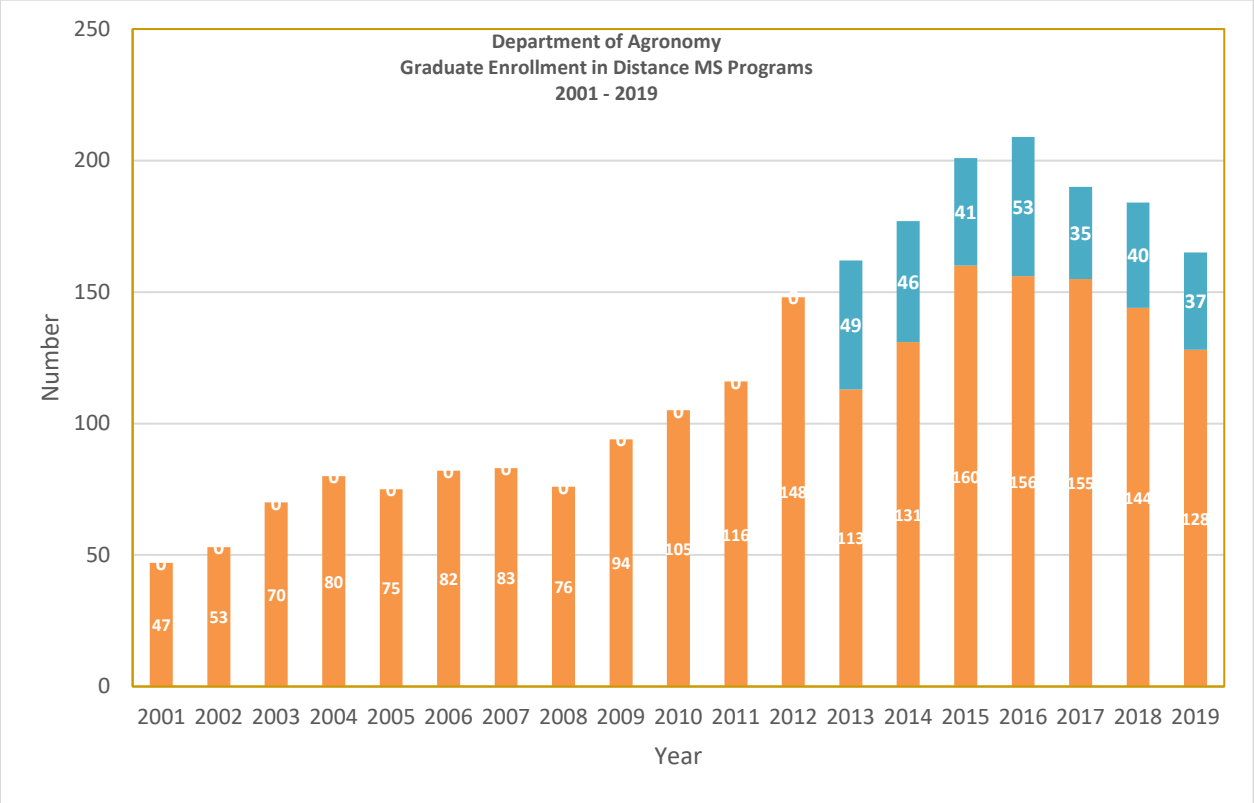
Our on-campus graduate student numbers continue to be stable.



Our distance graduate student numbers (distance agronomy (orange), plant breeding (aqua).