An initial action plan was developed as part of the graduate review of the Plant and Soil Science Department conducted during the 2009-2010 academic year. That plan was in response to the TTU committee and the outside reviewer recommendation. This is the one-year update to that plan which had seven recommendations.

**Recommendation 1. Establish a better graduate seminar.**
**Response:** As part of the re-invigorating seminar, we decided to bring outstanding scholars to campus. During the 2010-11 academic year, Drs. Gebisa Ejeta, winner of the World Prize, and Stan Cox, Senior Research Scientist at the Land Institute participated in our seminar program. During the 2011-12 academic year, Dr. Rob Fitzpatrick, a soil scientist from Australia is scheduled for October.

**Recommendation 2. Improve graduate advising.**
**Response:** Our on-campus advising has always been exemplary. We are in the process of merging our face-to-face M.S. programs in Crop Science, Plant Protection and Soil Science into one overarching M.S. in Plant and Soil Science. This renamed M.S. program will have the same name as our Ph.D. program. Our advising of distance students is much more problematic, especially in light of the rapid growth of our distance graduate programs. It is more difficult to advise a student when not being face-to-face with the advisee. We are attempting to overcome this in two ways. One way is to spread the distance advising over a greater number of faculty members. This lessens the overload at very busy times in the advising cycle. Secondly, we are formulating plans to hire a staff person to aid in the actual advising and enrolling students into our distance program. These addition resources are needed to be able to handle the increased numbers of distance students enrolling in our M.S. programs.

**Recommendation 3. Incentivize faculty to generate high impact publications and seek competitive federal funding. Link to tenure and promotion.**
**Response:** This has always been done in PSS and will continue to be an important consideration.

**Recommendation 4. Increase the competitiveness of graduate applicants and the percentage of graduate students from other universities.**
**Response:** With the decrease of state and federal funding, this increase in emphasis of graduate student quality will be paramount to making the most efficient use of our more limited research funds. We, as a department, are morphing to look like a tier one institution. This metamorphosis will change the demographics of our graduate student population. We intend to increase numbers of Ph.D. students and lessen the numbers of M.S. students under the Plant and Soil Science degree name. The horticulture M.S. program will not be adversely impacted by this change. This should allow us to increase the competitiveness of graduate applicants and the percentage of graduate students from other universities.
Recommendation 5. Increase the number of publications authored by graduate students to a minimum of one for every two years of study.
Response: This has been an area of emphasis recently. As we become even a more Research Intensive department, the publication record will increase.

Recommendation 6. Offer more graduate-only courses.
Response: This will be difficult without negatively affecting our undergraduate enrollment. As we emphasize Ph.D. graduate education, we may be able to develop, institute and teach more Ph.D. level courses. As we become more Research Intensive, it may well be that we lessen the dual level M.S.-B.S. degree classes.

Response: Within the past year, the building concept has radically been altered. The current thrust is an extension of a wing to the current Plant Science building. This concept has gained traction to the extent that there is a very active fund raising campaign to make a new wing happen.