

FACULTY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AD ENGINEERING

FEEDBACK ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEME FOR UNITS

School: Life Sciences

Year: 2006

Department: Agricultural Sciences

The scored responses in most questionnaires were higher than 2005 which was gratifying and suggests that changes are being made to suit student expectations and improve the student experience (figure 1).

There were some clear trouble spots particularly in the units AGR31EPP and AGR41CCA. The continuing problems with EPP will result in the replacement of this unit in 2007 by a new unit AGR3CVA Crop and Vine Agronomy to be taught in the second semester. This unit will be block taught in combination AGR3AEI and will use a case study format with field excursions. AGR41CCA also suffered from a lack of support and as a subject is really more about literature reviews and writing rather than the usual unit structure. We will lighten the workload in this unit next year and try to more formally assist students.

The PDA unit was taught by a guest lecturer and despite this the QA report was quite good with a rating of 4.0 overall. The organization of the practical units still needs some attention next year. The new unit AGR21BAS Biochemistry for Agricultural Sciences scored relatively poorly. The main problems would appear to be perceptions of organization in some of the practicals mainly due to the absence of the assistant due to illness

The Nutrition third year units both showed a marked increase in scores as the style of the teaching and curriculum was changed to engage these students. This apparently worked and it is expected that the prospective change in degree name and in the increased emphasis on human health will continue to improve student perceptions of this degree.

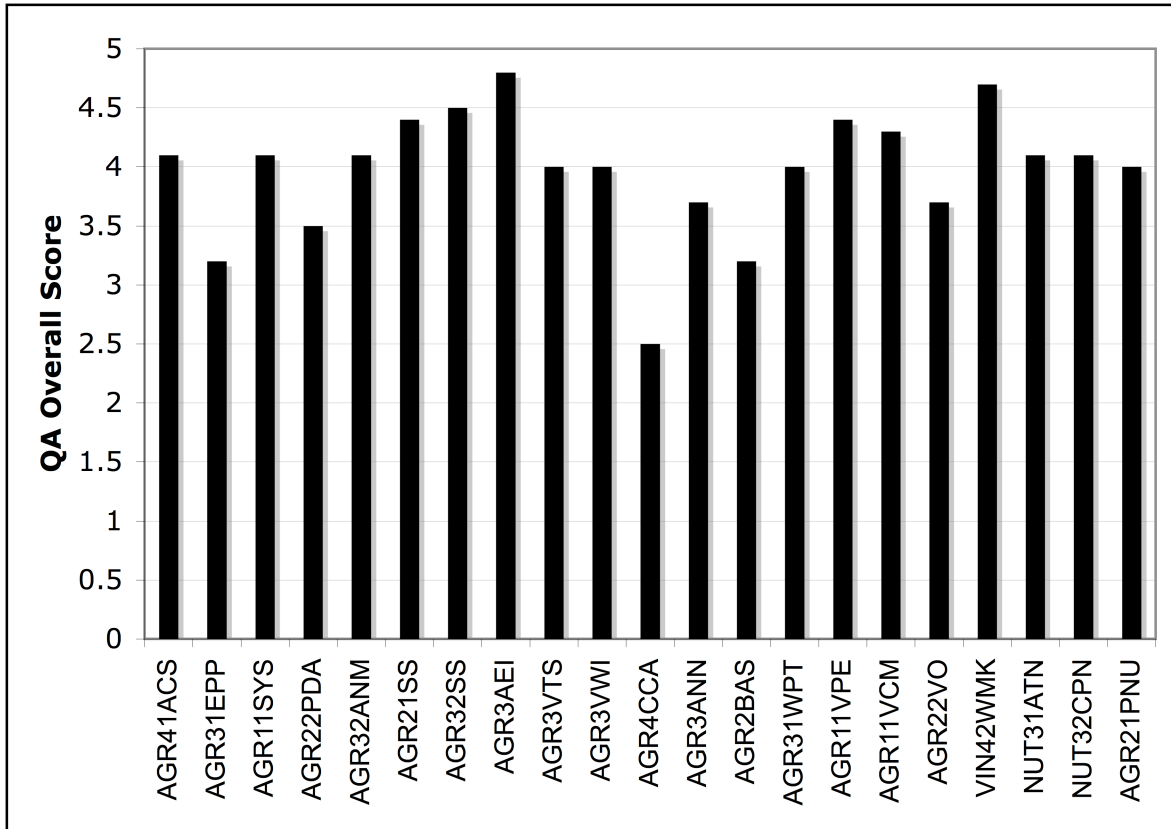


Figure 1. The overall assessment scores for units taught by the Department of Agricultural Sciences