

## **Graduate Student Planning Seminars (1/11/99)**

### **Policy**

All graduate students in Biological and Agricultural Engineering are expected to present a preliminary or planning seminar during the first year of their graduate program.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of these seminars is three-fold:

- (1) preparation for the seminar requires that the student begin planning for his/her thesis/dissertation research
- (2) the seminar allows time for feedback from other graduate students and faculty which may be helpful in final plans for experimental work
- (3) the presentation is an opportunity for graduate students to get experience in preparation of graphics, speaking before a group, and responding to questions from the audience.

### **Expectations**

The planning seminars are not expected to have results and conclusions but in some cases may include some preliminary data. It is expected that the seminars will contain the following features:

1. A general introduction of the area in which the student will be working.
2. A definition of the specific problem(s) to be solved, background on what has already been done on the problem(s), and a justification for the efforts to be undertaken.
3. A discussion of procedures to be used in solving the problem(s) including any initial development of theories to be tested.
4. A discussion of anticipated results and how they can be used.

Although the seminars are preliminary to the primary experimental studies of the student, they are expected to be presented in a professional manner. This should include the preparation and use of appropriate visual aids. The presentation will be evaluated (for the use of the presenting student only) by all persons in the audience and thus should help the student to develop better communication skills.

The length of preliminary seminars is likely to vary with topic. However, they are expected in general to be in the range of 15-25 minutes, allowing two student presentations within a normal 50 minute seminar session.