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January 21, 2015

To: FW Faculty Graduate Advisors

From: Selina Heppell, Interim Department Head

RE: Outcomes Assessment REQUIRED for all defenses

Dear FW Graduate Student Advisors and Committee Members,

The College of Agricultural Sciences, Graduate School and University now require us to report annually on our "Learner Outcomes Assessment" process and results. The idea is to evaluate the quality of our program and how well we are preparing our graduates. We are using a variety of tools for this, including an [online survey](#) evaluating a student's thesis and defense. We are asking for feedback from each committee member, to be submitted after the defense and regardless of the outcome of the defense. The assessment results will **not** be shared with the student – this is a required activity to evaluate the program, not individuals. Responses from each committee member will be averaged for each student, then pooled across all graduates for each program (MS, PhD, PSMFWA).

Your assistance with this effort is greatly appreciated. We need your response to assure a good sample size each year for program assessment. Below is a template email to be sent to each member of the graduate student's committee. Note that the Graduate School Representative will also have an assessment form at the defense, but that is for the Graduate School's records and is less detailed (and informative) than ours.

The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Selina Heppell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Selina Heppell

Subject: Graduate Student Learner Assessment Survey – Post Defense

Dear FW Graduate Student Advisors and Committee Members,

The College of Agricultural Sciences, Graduate School and University now require us to report annually on our “Learner Outcomes Assessment” process and results. The idea is to evaluate the quality of our program and how well we are preparing our graduates.

The following post-defense survey is used for assessing student learner outcomes and does not become part of the student’s permanent record. At the end of the defense, each committee member will complete the following survey. This is not the same function as deciding whether or not the student has passed the defense.

http://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_00MRZsbxSppBWJL

Sincerely,

“Graduate Faculty Member Committee Chair X”

EXAMPLE ETHICS QUESTIONS FOR FW GRADUATE STUDENTS:

- 1). Do animals have rights? Defend your answer
What animal "protection" does OSU have?
What guidance do fisheries and wildlife professional societies provide regarding animal handling procedures?
- 2) What are some ethical issues faced by scientists and/or fish or wildlife managers?
- 3) How should multiple authorship be handled in a collaborative research effort?
- 4) Can people have diametrically opposed views on an issue (i.e., hunting or fishing) and still be ethical? Explain your reasoning.
- 5) Is it okay for a scientist to be an advocate? Defend your point of view.
- 6) What are your responsibilities (if any) to communicate your work/research to the interested public?
- 7) You receive a paper from a journal to review for possible publication and discover that it is on the same topic you are working on. What do you do?
- 8) Data archiving and sharing: what are your responsibilities as a researcher, both for using the data of others and for archiving and sharing your own?