

## Unit Review

### Facilities

*How does size, type and/or quality of current physical space affect unit's ability to fulfill its current mission and offer its current programs?*

The CRSS department has diverse and multi-functional programs located at three campuses. Maps and building information can be found in Exhibit J. In addition to the physical space on the Tifton, Griffin and Athens campuses proper, CRSS faculty conduct program related activities at several Research and Education Centers, private farms and at other locations as needed. The current office and laboratory space is adequate for supporting existing faculty, staff and students at all three locations. However, many of the laboratories need significant renovation. The addition of the Center for Advanced Genetic Technology provided the breeding/genetics/genomics Athens based faculty outstanding laboratory and office space. Some of the remaining CRSS laboratory space in the Plant Science Building has been renovated, but additional renovation is needed. Some Tifton faculty have been relocated to a recently renovated building which improved laboratory and office space for some faculty. The need to implement plans for the construction and/or renovation of teaching facilities and laboratories is essential to the future success of the teaching and research programs at Griffin. Plans to renovate the Rural Development Center to accommodate teaching programs in Tifton should proceed. Even with the new facilities and possible future renovations, CRSS faculty will remain separated both by location and physically separated in different buildings at each location which can make cooperation challenging.

Greenhouses at all locations need significant renovation but the space is functional. A new greenhouse is being constructed to support the genomics programs. The Plant Science Farm in Athens continues to support field based programs but, significant renovation of existing building and infrastructure is critical. In addition, the equipment at the Plant Science Farm is extremely old and significant investment is need to ensure continued programmatic support.

*How does the amount, type, and/or quality of information technology/equipment available to the unit affect unit's ability to full its current mission and offer its current programs?*

Most faculty, staff and students have adequate access to information technology/equipment. The CRSS faculty utilize the college based GSAMS system to videoconference. This system can be inconvenient and requires significant technical support which is not always available. The CRSS department has recently invested in a new IP based videoconferencing system. This system should allow faculty, staff and students to more effectively communicate without extensive travel. Discussions have included utilizing this system for routine communication and facilitating teaching, research and extension programs.

The department "outsources" general computer hardware and software support to EITS. In addition, EITS was contracted to help develop the new CRSS webpage. Administrative staff have been used to assist with routine web maintenance; however, increasing demand has necessitated contracting with EITS to assist. The CRSS faculty at Tifton and Griffin receive more direct College IT support through OIT personnel, however, additional assistance is needed.

*How does the amount, type, and/or quality of library holding and resources available in the unit's discipline affect unit's ability to fulfill its current mission and offer its current programs?*

Library resources are adequate.

*Have there been significant changes in the unit's facilities or technical infrastructure since the last review?*

The space allocated to CRSS in the Plant Science Building in Athens was reduced when several faculty moved into the Center for Advanced Genetic Technology. Several CRSS moved to the National

Environmentally Sound Production Agriculture Laboratory or a newly renovate building in Tifton. Plans should be implemented in the near future to construct a new student center on the Griffin campus. Other than the aforementioned new or renovated facilities, the general quality of laboratories, greenhouses and farm facilities and equipment has declined. Efforts to obtain funding to replace and/or renovate equipment and facilities will continue.

*What are unit's projected needs in facilities, information technology and equipment over the next 7 years?*

To retain and attract the best faculty, students and staff requires outstanding facilities and equipment. Access to the best possible facilities and equipment are essential to maintain the competitive edge in programs that CRSS presently enjoys. Although faculty presently provide funding for most of the equipment acquisition and maintenance, the quality of laboratory facilities will remain an institutional responsibility. Some of the equipment and supplies that support research and extension greenhouses and farm activities is provided by faculty but, faculty expect the infrastructure to be maintained by the university. Teaching supplies, equipment and facilities and information technology infrastructure must be provided by the universities as extramural funding can not be obtained for this purpose.

In Athens, additional facility renovation and institutional support for equipment replacement and/or maintenance must continue. Completion of the genomics greenhouse, continued renovation of the Plant Science farm and greenhouses and faculty and teaching laboratories need to be funded. At Griffin, a new turf equipment storage building, maintenance shop, and offices for support staff will be required since existing facilities will be removed to provide space for the new Griffin Campus "Learning Center." Additional molecular genetics laboratories and supporting equipment will be needed in the near future to support existing breeding and genetics and water chemistry research and teaching efforts in Griffin. At Tifton, additional plot land for field research and quality greenhouse and growth chamber space is very limited. New limitations imposed by state agencies regarding vehicle acquisition are making routine travel difficult. Long term, CRSS faculty would be more effective if housed jointly on each of the three campuses.

*How are these needs related to the goals of the unit?*

In order for the research, extension and teaching programs to increase productivity and to remain competitive for grants in the future, laboratory space and technology needs must be addressed. The retention and recruitment of talented faculty, students and staff and their ability to fulfill the goals of the department, college and university will be dependent on providing the very best facilities and equipment.