On September 28, 2009, the Assessment Oversight Committee (AOC) conducted an assessment review of the Ornamental Horticulture program. Dr. Michael Compton, program director, presented the report. After identifying the program’s student learning outcomes and the tools used to assess these outcomes—such as internship evaluations and class learning evaluations, Dr. Compton described the assessment results. Among the findings he mentioned that written skills, knowledge of plants and knowledge of the horticulture business need improvement. Curricular changes have already begun to address these issues. For example, new plant courses have been added, such as AGSCI 2280 Woody Landscape Plants and AGSCI 3240 Herbaceous Plants. Additional new courses, such as a landscape construction course, are in the works.

The AOC praised Compton for his outstanding assessment report and encouraged Ornamental Horticulture to make the changes it believes necessary to improve its program.