Below is your vision statement from previous years. Please take this opportunity to review it and if necessary update it.

Vision statement for the new department of Ecology and Organismal Biology (EOB): “The Department of EOB's mission is to educate a new generation of scientists and practitioners in the modern methods and theories of 1) organismal biology, including physiology, behavior, ecology, evolution and systematics, and 2) ecological and environmental biology with a focus on Conservation Biology. We strive to: A) disseminate new knowledge gained via nationally- and internationally-recognized research programs, B) provide high-quality, comprehensive, and interactive programs of undergraduate and graduate instruction with experiential learning, C) lend our expertise to local, state and regional agencies involved in biological conservation and education. EOB will work steadily toward the University's goal of enhancing its reputation as a research-intensive university. We are committed to hiring faculty and personnel who will enhance the graduate education and research mission of both the Department and the University, especially as these efforts compliment our dedication to the PhD program of study in our department. We support the concept of adaptive assessment as a means for continuing improvement of ongoing educational programs. We encourage prospective undergraduate and graduate students with interests in the "large-scale" portion of the biological spectrum -- that dealing with processes taking place within and between whole organisms (animal and plants) and their biological and physical environment -- to pursue their degrees in EOB. Educational programs are flexible and can be tailored to student needs at any level within this spectrum. Undergraduate students are encouraged to pursue individual research projects or professional experiences, through internships or undergraduate research assistantships. Graduate students are expected to pursue research that will be published in high quality international journals.