October 26, 2015

To: Office of Undergraduate Research

From: D. W. Watson, Department of Entomology

Subject: Undergraduate Research Project

This communication is to verify that D. W. Watson, Interim Department Head and Veterinary Entomologist will mentor Morgan Malone for the research project entitled: Horizontal and Vertical Distribution of Face Flies in Dung Pats of Varying Temperatures. This project will provide insights into the ecological microcosm known as the dung pat, the preferred home for the larva of the face fly. Face flies are of particular concern because they transmit Moraxella bovis, the causative agent of blindness in cattle. Efforts to control the adult insect have demonstrated few successes and developing a better understanding of larval ecology that may lead to better control.

Morgan Malone will be performing this study. Morgan has conducted a review of the literature review and sought out advice on project design. She has made contact with a Graduate Student technical consultant and we discussed the project outline, budget and timetable. Morgan will have access to laboratory space, fly colonies, instruments, a field site and transportation required for the completion of this project. I am looking forward to this rewarding experience with an engaging student.

Sincerely,

D. W. Watson
Veterinary Entomologist