Guidelines for Selecting and Appointing a Student Advisory Committee  
MS AFLS Degree Program, University of Arkansas

The structure of MS AFLS student advisory committees is defined in the MS AFLS Program Description posted on the program’s website (http://bumperscollege.uark.edu/544.htm).

“A graduate advisory committee is appointed for each student, consisting of a major professor from the department in which the heaviest concentration of agriculture courses will be developed. The major advisor is selected by the student and the Program Coordinator with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. At least two other committee members are selected by the student and the major professor with approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. At least one committee member should be from outside the department in which the major professor is located, and one member must be a member of the Steering Committee. A committee will include at least three members of the graduate faculty”.

Given the expanding scope of the MS AFLS degree and the growing involvement of off-campus faculty in the program, we further suggest that all MS AFLS graduate advisory committees include at least one on-campus co-major professor with prior experience in successfully guiding M.S. student projects. This is not to dilute the influence of the highly valued off-campus faculty that are providing significant support and growth to program. This resource of scientific expertise and interest in off-campus students has been historically underutilized and is now greatly enhancing the MS AFLS degree program. The suggestion of an experienced on-campus co-advisor is simply intended to provide all students with experienced advisors that understand and work closely with the Graduate School and the Bumper’s College on a routine basis. The concept of co-major advisors is endorsed by the Steering Committee as a preferred approach to graduate advisory committee structure.