

Forestry Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 20, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Richardson Hall 115

Meeting facilitated by Steve Tesch

List of Attendees:

Members present: Roger Admiral, Eric Hansen, Barbara Bond, Ed Jensen, Jim Johnson, Thomas Maness, Brenda McComb, Tom McLain, Steve Tesch, Hal Salwasser

Guests: Paul Doescher, David Hibbs, Robin Rose, Steve Strauss, Glenn Howe, Jeff Morrell, Dave Shaw, Keith Jayawickrama, Arne Skaugset, Doug Mainwaring, Hathai Sangsupan, Caitlin Bell

Meeting Handouts:

11-06-09 FEC Meeting Minutes

11-19-09 Action Items Tracking List

I. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

11-06-09 minutes were approved.

II. Review Status of Past Action Items

College website:

Roger Admiral and Eric Hansen have looked at another set of templates. There was some concern with the navigation menu. This is ready for presentation and discussion at the 12/18/09 FEC meeting.

Sustainability Dual Degree Program Proposal:

Thomas Maness is meeting with Kate Lajtha today at 1:30 pm. Thomas was reminded of the need to represent wood science and the built environment in the conversation. Ed Jensen will join the meeting.

III. New Items

A. Division Planning and Strategic Realignment Update – Hal Salwasser

Paul Doescher reported on the discussion of a temporary pay reduction proposal that was discussed at the Faculty Senate meeting held yesterday. This was the continuation of a discussion from the November 12 meeting. The proposal for FY 2010 is available for viewing at

http://oregonstate.edu/senate/agen/2009/1112_PayReduc0911.pdf. There was overwhelming support and solidarity from the faculty. The details are still being

worked out. The committee discussed the challenges for the College business office to implement a plan that included various exemptions, such as for sponsored research funds.

Hal reviewed Division discussions to date. He had met with the three CoF Departments this week to update them about the ESS Division thinking. There have been already three ESS division meetings with department heads and associate deans to discuss issues. The Executive Associate Deans [Tesch and Boggess] will be assigned to manage the process for seeking input about the Division draft mission and vision statements from COF and CAS faculty, staff, and, students. Mark Abbott will solicit input in COAS. Abbott is leading the conversation about resurrecting the Earth System Institute. Barbara was asked to help shape this idea.

Hal described the current process being utilized by CAS to scope options for their transformation process. At this time, it is largely progressing independently of the Division discussions. There is interest in the CAS in the coop education proposal by Thomas Maness. Sonny wants to explore the possibility of a Division research service center that will include pre and post award support. Ed Jensen and Carry Green have been assigned to lead the process of the curriculum streamlining task. Ed described the challenge of increasing efficiency if new degree programs are proposed without terminating or consolidating others. There was also conversation about graduate programs. Barbara Bond suggested that the graduate program coordination should be a university process that would be cross divisional. The committee briefly discussed the “faculty of...” model as it may relate to both UG and G programs.

Dave Hibbs asked for some guidance on how to resolve the challenges facing the FERM and FES graduate programs. A question was how much does an incoming grad student identify with a degree program as opposed to a faculty member? Hal suggested starting a conversation about degree names. Do we have to keep the degree names that everybody has known all these years or can we come up with new degree names that are more integrated with some options? Graduate students at the meeting shared their experience in connecting with their advisors and whether or not the degree program was important to them.

Hal shared plans for upcoming ESS Division meetings. There will be an effort to focus meetings on specific tasks and only require attendance of related individuals. The focus on upcoming meetings will be on the concept of a marketing and communications service center and on curriculum streamlining. There is going to be a need for a mechanism to communicate a progress within the Divisions, perhaps an OSU website where each Division could post their progress report.

Action Items:

Barbara and Hal will meet to discuss the Earth Systems Science Institute.

B. Research Cooperatives – Steve Tesch/Coop Leaders

The College of Forestry research cooperative directors met with the FEC to discuss the cooperatives' successes and challenges. Each director presented a brief overview of their overall financial and membership situation, and a highlight of their current program. There are eleven research cooperatives. Most of the cooperatives have directors that are funded by the CoF; members organizations provide funds for operating budgets to carry out research and outreach on high-priority needs.

Hardwood Silviculture Cooperative (HSC) – Dave Hibbs
(www.cof.orst.edu/coops/hsc)

Utility Pole Research Cooperative (UPRC) – Jeff Morrell
(www.cof.orst.edu/coops/utlpole)

Environmental Treated Wood Research Cooperative – Jeff Morrell

Center for Intensive Planed-forest Silviculture (CIPS) – Doug Mainwaring
represented Doug Maguire
(www.fsl.orst.edu/cips/)

Nursery Technology Cooperative (NTC) – Robin Rose
(ntc.forestry.oregonstate.edu)

Vegetation Management Research Cooperative (VMRC) – Robin Rose
(www.cof.orst.edu/coops/vmrc/home.htm)

Tree Biosafety and Genomics Research Cooperative (TBGRC) – Steve Strauss
(www.cof.orst.edu/coops/tbgrc)

Pacific Northwest Tree Improvement Research Cooperative (PNWTIRC) – Glenn Howe
(www.fsl.orst.edu/pnwtirc)

Northwest Tree Improvement Cooperative (NWTIC) – Keith Jayawickrama
(www.fsl.orst.edu/nwtic)

Watersheds Research Cooperative (WRC) – Arne Skaugset
(<http://watershedsresearch.org/>)

Swiss Needle Cast Research Cooperative (SNCC) – Dave Shaw
(www.cof.orst.edu/coops/sncc)

The group discussion started with the issue of indirect cost rates. There were some concerns about the interpretation of the statement in the OSU implementation plan that called for full recovery of F&A rates by units if waivers were requested. The Research Office has confirmed that the College's MOUs will

stand as the negotiated F&A rate for the stated term. Any increases in F&A rates create budgetary challenges for the cooperatives under current business models for most cooperatives. This is largely because dues have been fixed and there is little ability to increase revenue without recruiting new members. The directors from the cooperatives voiced their expectations and needs to the College leadership, discussed what is currently working and what is not, and brainstormed ideas for a set of principles for guiding decisions related to cooperatives and for statements about cooperatives value to the College and University that can be used to assist in future F&A rate negotiations.

Comments:

Glenn Howe - Suggested that a regional coop advisory board be considered to seek synergies among other cooperatives in the region and perhaps beyond. Reinforced the need by coop directors to feel supported by the college.

Tom McLain – Pondered what role CoF research and service coops will play in the OSU land grant mission in the future?

Steve Strauss – Coops are more diversified today - Need to rationalize why they are treated differently with respect to F&A rates. Also need set of principles for guiding COF actions with respect to coops.

Action Items:

Steve Strauss, Robin Rose, Glenn Howe, and Dave Shaw were charged to draft a short white paper about coop characteristics, benefits to COF and OSU, and impacts with stakeholders that the CoF can use in future negotiations with VPR office about F&A rates. The committee was asked to also draft a set of principles for use by the Dean and FEC to guide decisions about issues such as initiating, continuing, or terminating coops; and consideration of variable indirect cost structures based on member location, payment of harvest taxes, or other considerations. The working group will share their draft with their colleague directors and Steve Tesch for input and then bring back to FEC and Dean for endorsement.

Nathalie will work with Steve T. to send the charge to the working group.

Hal would like to have similar meetings of the research cooperative directors on a more regular basis, perhaps annually. . .It would be helpful to centralize information about the coops on the college website.

IV. Items Follow-up

A. Looming Course Conflicts – Ed Jensen

Ed described the looming enrollment challenge for FOR 460. The Forest Policy class is a WIC course and is limited to 25 students per section. Based on current planned offerings there will be unmet demand that could delay graduation of

some students. Long term solutions, such as offering more WIC courses were discussed, but will be a challenge to implement this school year.

Action Item:

Thomas, Ed, and Brenda will meet to discuss to find a resolution. They will report to FEC.

B. Honor Board Chair – Ed Jensen/Steve Tesch

It's important for the College to retain its Code of Conduct and an Honor Board to oversee it. The primary tasks of a faculty adviser are to assemble and train a board in case it is needed, to help advertise the Code of Conduct to members of the College, to oversee operation of the board when called into action, and to periodically conduct a student referendum to determine if the Honor Code is to be retained. The Board is not called into action very often, but when it is, the need is usually immediate (e.g. very end of the term) and the importance of good decisions is high. This is a responsibility of faculty across the entire College, not just within a single department.

Decision:

The committee accepted Ed's proposal that the three departments will rotate the responsibility for providing a faculty advisor for the Honor Board--on a 3-year basis. WSE will start the rotation for 2009-10. John Simonson has agreed to serve as the new faculty adviser.

C. P&T process/ scheduling update – DHs and Nathalie Gitt

The Dean's office has tentatively scheduled the interviews with the candidates, Dean, Associate Deans, and their Department Head. The candidates' dossiers will be distributed to the P&T committee on December 18. Steve went through the process with the new Department Heads.

D. Hayes position update – Steve Tesch

There was only one candidature for the Hayes Professorship position. The committee reviewed the application and agreed that the application was acceptable. The candidate will present his vision and stimulate some conversation on December 4. The Hayes Family will be invited to the seminar. The seminar will be video recorded. The position should be filled by the end of the year.

E. Distributing CoF press releases – Roger Admiral

We have created an email distribution list that includes Board of Visitors, Forest Research Lab Advisory Committee, and other important constituents. The press releases are currently posted on the CoF Web page. Caryn Davis will start

sending selected CoF press releases to the list. FEC will also be copied. The committee also discussed how we might generate more news. Ed raised the issue of what else we might use the email list for and the committee agreed that information on the selected Board of Visitors proposals would be appropriate.

Action Item:

Need to work with Luanne to let her know what is going on in the departments.

TEM funding resolution – Steve Tesch

The College of Forestry contributed \$10,000 to the College-level match for the new transmission electron microscope proposal.

Minutes submitted 12/04/09 by: Nathalie Gitt

FEC Website: <http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/admin/execom/index.php>

[Minutes to be approved by: Steve Tesch]