

**OSU College of Forestry International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
12 January 2010**

Prepared by Susan Morré

Advisory Committee members present: Jim Johnson, Chair (Associate Dean, International Programs); Badege Bishaw, Eric Hansen, Dave Hibbs, Susan Morré, John Sessions and David Zahler (FES)

Other attendees: Thomas Maness (FERM Dept. Head) and Brenda McComb (FES Dept. Head); Chris Knowles (IFSA faculty advisor)

Advisory Committee members absent: John Bliss, Loren Kellogg, and Jeff Morrell.

1) Department Heads' Perspectives on Importance of International Programs for faculty and students –Brenda McComb (FES) and Thomas Maness (FERM)

Brenda: 1) International experience is integral to what we do – domestic students studying/researching internationally, international students and faculty who are part of our college. Currently we don't have money to advocate for international work to the degree we need to; encouraged it will increase but not coming soon. Potential problem: cautiously encouraging young non-tenured faculty to work in other countries, but hope they don't get bogged down in politics there. Senior faculty can risk those issues, without a clock ticking on tenure achievement. Positive example: Matt Betts' work in Costa Rica.

2) On international courses: All courses should have an international component. Students have little political awareness of other countries or the natural resource issues there. If the curriculum committee has required international courses, okay; if not, how about offering them as electives? However, we are being instructed to eliminate low-enrollment nonrequired courses. It would be wonderful to develop a strong international program if we had a funding mechanism.

John S: Have about 50 students in the international forestry course (global issues), many from across campus. Need appropriate funding model to bring tuition based on student credit hours to the department to cover the cost of instruction. Currently no financial incentive to teach more students.

Badege: Average over 40 students each term it has been offered since 1999. Began teaching agroforestry course in 2007 – we are the OSU source. There is no agroforestry expert in Agricultural Sciences. Steve Sharrow teaches the Introduction to Agroforestry course in CAS and then recommends the students take our Planning Agroforestry Projects course. He is retiring, so perhaps Badege could teach both courses.

Brenda: Would love to pay Badege to teach, but the FEC decided that fixed term instructors were a place to cut costs, so only tenure and tenure track instructors will teach courses on campus. Ecampus money covers some instructors to teach online (Badege, Dawn Anziger).

Jim: Study abroad opportunities, faculty engaged in international projects, and international courses are all important. UBC has a much more international flavor than OSU.

Thomas: Having very recently come here from University of British Columbia, there is a striking difference between UBC and OSU. Vancouver is an international city, UBC is an international school. We haven't had a good discussion in FERM yet, but plan to participate in an international forestry seminar in May 2010 in Vancouver. The intent is to build more links with China, have more Chinese students come study here and return to China. Badege submitted an abstract to the conference on our new Master of Natural Resources (MNR) program. Many opportunities for UBC/OSU collaboration on international activities, especially Chile and Argentina (similarities to here), and Brazil and China. Bruce Larson (FM UBC) has good connections in these countries; Canada has more financial resources than we do. Where can we get the funding to increase international collaborations?

Jim: Faculty regularly seek funding – 2 of 3 recent proposals to USDA International Science & Education were from COF. The INTO program is another opportunity – they target high school seniors and bring them here for a year to learn English. They are currently recruiting Chinese students for only business and engineering. How can we convince them to target Forestry and Natural Resources students too?

John S: The first two years of coursework in the FE program is the same as the CE program.

Susan: While these Pathway students are here we could invite them over to the COF for pizza, or give a presentation to them about our programs.

2) Ethiopian/US/European University Consortium for Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Ph.D. Program in Ethiopia – Badege Bishaw

(See curriculum handout.)

[Background: Ethiopia has stated a goal of training 5000 Ph.D. students over the next 10 years. The Ethiopian government is moving forward with financial support from the Swedish International Development Agency's Department for Research Cooperation (SIDA/SAREC). OSU is one of six universities that are partnering with Wondo Genet College of Forestry in Ethiopia to offer a new Ph.D. program in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. Other partners: Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, University of Helsinki (Finland), University of Bangor (United Kingdom). OSU has been working with Wondo Genet since 2002 (funded by USAID) to help develop a BS and MS program in NR Management, and improve their technological capacity, including upgrading their campus networking system. Sweden's SIDA has already sent the funds to the Ethiopian government. Individual MOUs are being developed now for each partner university. Wondo Genet college of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hawassa University is coordinating the project. Funds will be released to partners to cover transportation, food, lodging, and salary (likely as grants, contracts, or consultant pay to faculty for 4 – 6 week faculty exchanges) after it is decided how the curriculum delivery will be divided up among the different partner institutions.]

OSU renewed our MOU with Hawassa University/Wondo Genet in October. The former USAID-funded Natural Resources Management program at Wondo Genet supported a two-way faculty and student exchange. There were 23 faculty and student exchanges from the U.S. and Ethiopian partner institutions. Kat Guillozet is doing her Ph.D. research there now.

Ethiopia has 8 – 10 universities now, and wants to expand to 21 universities and educate 5000 Ph.D. and MS students over the next 10 years, with funding from SIDA/SAREC. This five year \$30 million grant will fund the establishment of the Ph.D. program and build capacity for educational expansion in Ethiopia. One US/European faculty member will co-advise Ph.D. students with one Ethiopian faculty member, so they can learn how to train Ph.D. students. At the end of the funding period, trained Ethiopian faculty and new Ph.D.s will take over. Wondo Genet is currently reviewing the curriculum to identify which courses they have the capacity to teach now, and which will be taught by faculty from the other Consortium partner institutions. It is planned to start the program in fall 2010 or winter 2011.

Next steps: Late February or March: One or two focal persons from each partner institution will receive funding from the Consortium to attend a one-week retreat in a private area in Ethiopia to work out the specifics and sign a contract. Jim and Badege will both go. After Ethiopia identifies which courses they have capacity to teach, other universities will divide up the remaining courses based on their expertise and availability of faculty. We will identify specific OSU faculty who may be available to teach specific courses, perhaps while on sabbatical or through other arrangements.

Jim: Perhaps our faculty can go for 4 – 6 weeks and teach a term course condensed into that time; perhaps they could go while on sabbatical. He spoke with Patricia Hawk in OSU Sponsored Programs and with Tamara Bronson in Contracts; neither were helpful. Patricia thought it sounded like a contract rather than a sponsored program; Tamara said an individual service contract would violate university consulting restrictions.

Dave H: Think only 2 OSU faculty may be interested.

David Z: What about Bliss, Bishaw, Temesgen, Puettmann?

Susan: Perhaps some in Fisheries & Wildlife.

Brenda: who?

Recommendation: As soon as we know what courses are available for our faculty to teach, discuss with other departments about potentially interested faculty. Investigate several pay arrangements: 9 month faculty, .75 FTE faculty, retirees, or sabbatical; or get the funding as a grant so we can save the state some money. Find out if faculty could also do research while there, if there is salary reimbursement for chairing a Ph.D. committee, if student groups could visit for specific training. Ask Dan Edge who in Fisheries & Wildlife might be interested.

3) Peace Corps Master's International Program Update – David Zahler

One student Ramona has started the program, and this is her second quarter working with John Bailey. She has obtained a teaching assistantship for two terms, will find out in January where she is likely to be sent, and will know for sure in March. That will allow her to modify her spring term course choices to best prepare her for her summer 2010 Peace Corps assignment.

Joe Albers has a student coming to work with her: Ben Schiek. There are at least for MI applicants: Becca Sunday (FERM) to work with Jim Johnson, Sam Stewart (FES) to work with Dave H. or Barbara Bond, Gene Fifer (FES) to work with Matt Shinderman, Jon Nott (FERM) to work with someone who'd be interested in focusing on the forestry/wildlife connection. One MI applicant was not accepted by a College of Forestry major professor and is now an MI student at Northern Arizona University (best-fit faculty didn't think GPA/GRE was high enough in math and science). There have been many other inquiries from diverse and well-qualified students. The target was six students in the program, with 1 – 2 new students coming in each year. Currently we have 24 active files for students ready to come within a year. We expect about six applications from that group. We have four open applications in process for FERM or FES, and their letter of interest will help us find the best fit for them. We have two other pending applications, one interested in international business (WSE). Same academic standards as other students.

In summary: We expect a total of about six students by June, including Ramona and Ben, IF we can get major professors to sign on. Most expect to self-fund, apply for federal grants. David tells them it is an unfunded masters, although Ramona has a TAship for 2 of 3 quarters.

Brenda: Concerned about inequity of some students with no funding while others have funds for travel, equipment, research. Becomes uncomfortable class issue.

Eric: Concerned about high-risk situation – here 9 months, gone 27 months – if don't come back, wasted investment of tuition remission for those with .2 assistantship.

Susan: O-code mechanism Joe Hoff presented to help maintain connection with OSU, see selves as students, access library resources online, communicate with professors; professor can make site visit to Peace Corps location.

Eric: Does David Z match student with faculty? (“Yes, while I'm here....I learn the student's interest and then talk with potential professors.”)

Recommendations: (Brenda) Need an endowment to support international programs, including this one. Ask Hal or Steve Tesch to pull together a list of endowment goals and objectives. Maybe we could find \$20,000 per student to cover tuition remission and faculty site visit.

PC alumni special recognition – more likely to donate.

Next step: Jim and David will discuss with Hal and Steve.

4) Scandinavian Study Tour – Eric Hansen

First sponsored study abroad tour in many years. About four years ago, Eric and Chris noticed at graduation that no COF students were in the International Degree program. They sat down with Jim and decided to develop a lower cost, short-term study abroad program for Sweden, Finland and Norway that wouldn't require a foreign language. Developed a 2-credit spring term seminar course to orient students to forestry and natural resource issues in Scandinavia and broaden their understanding of the role of culture in natural resource management decision-making. Climate change strategy is key issue in all three countries, so named the tour **Climate Change and Natural Resources**

Management: Insights from Scandinavia. Ten students participated (2 Nuclear Engineering, 1 College of Business, 1 Housing Studies, 1 Environmental Economics, and 5 College of Forestry). The COF students all got \$1500, and 3 of them in WSE got an additional \$500. Eric and Chris's expenses were covered by the student payments. The spring pre-tour course was not funded.

Required daily journal, cultural site visits in Helsinki, Stockholm, and Bergen, a paper that paralleled the seminar, active participation, and gift for hosts.

Student quotes: "The US is all about the bottom line; here they care about climate change, productive life cycle concerns, farm competitiveness, subsidies, cultural traditions..." "The US needs to change how we look at energy – be accountable for all costs, not just the price per gallon of gasoline."

Lessons learned, and what we would do differently next time:

- 1) Do the travel arrangements ourselves. (Travel agents were the biggest hassle, five different agencies, OSU frowns on going outside their approved agencies.)
- 2) More unstructured time in-country.
- 3) Daily debriefing to help improve the tour experience.
- 4) Delay tour to after September 1, when airfare is cheaper (would have been \$400 less per ticket).
- 5) Personal visa worked fine, university visa was denied multiple times.
- 6) Students thought 10 students was the ideal number; we think cap should be 16 students.
- 7) Ideas to improve the spring seminar.
- 8) International Programs Fair was an effective recruiting tool (3 students came as a result).

Recommend putting link to tour on COF International Programs website.

Next study tour: September 4 – 18, 2011. Cost might be \$4000-4500 per student.

5) IFSA update – Chris Knowles

(See handout.)

OSU-IFSA president Lam resigned this morning to focus on his research and graduate. Need officers willing to put in the energy to help the club thrive. Lam has been too busy to do so. Need a new election (perhaps before the April scheduled election.)

Next meeting: April. Discuss website content. Talk with Eric about new format – he's on the website redesign team.