

## OSU College of Forestry International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary 18 February 2009

Prepared by Susan Morré

Advisory Committee members present: Jim Johnson, Chair (Associate Dean, International Programs); Badege Bishaw, John Bliss, Susan Morré and David Zahler (FES); Eric Hansen and Jeff Morrell (WSE), Loren Kellogg and John Sessions (FERM).

Other attendees: Charlotte Moats-Gallagher (OSU International Programs Office) and Klaus Puettmann (FERM)

Advisory Committee members absent: Dave Hibbs and Shiloh Sundstrom.

### **Future of International Forestry Students Association – Susan Morré**

OSU-IFSA activity has dwindled over the past two years and the current officers are finishing up their degree programs and moving on. Chris Knowles, one of the two faculty advisors (along with Badege), is trying to reinvigorate the OSU chapter of this international student club. He has called a meeting for Monday 23 February for all interested students to elect new officers, enlist cooks for the Friday 27 Feb. International Lunch, and plan for the future of the club. Susan printed flyers for both events and will post them around the building, on the helpdesk monitor, and send to Clay for undergraduate publication. Several students have responded to Chris already with interest in serving as new officers. IFSA has a strong relationship with IUFRO, so there are plans to invite Dr. Don Lee, IUFRO president, to give a talk at an IFSA meeting in March or April. [There are also plans to have Chris and Eric do a presentation on the Scandinavia Study Tour and for David Zahler and recently returned Peace Corps volunteer Angela Mallon to give a talk about the Peace Corps experience and PCMI.]

**Discussion of OSU International Programs Faculty Grants Program – Charlotte Moats-Gallagher** [Handouts: 2008-09 International Programs Faculty Grants Awarded, Winning Proposals tips and Evaluation Sheet.] There was a call for proposals in September 2008 and 12 grants averaging \$2000 each were awarded in December for a one year period beginning in January 2009. The COF submitted three proposals but none were successful, so Jim invited Charlotte to share information with us that may increase our success in the next round. Key advice from Charlotte: write a compelling two page proposal that is more specific and that shows how this small grant would be leveraged to have broader program purpose and broader impact (reach more people or attract other funds). The focus this time was on underrepresented areas (Africa, Latin America and Central Europe). [In the past, over four years a total of \$208,000 was awarded, with about three RFPs each year and a half time person administered the program. The reduced program now has \$25,000 to award and a single RFP each year. There is no current OSU IP giving program to provide funds for student travel for international research.]

See <http://oregonstate.edu/international/studyabroad/faculty/funding/ip-grants> for more information about the faculty grants and other awards programs such as the Asia Initiative, International Linkage, International Research & Development, International Alumni Relationship Development, and International Student Recruitment grant opportunities. IP Interim Associate Provost Joe Hendricks has three priority areas for external fundraising: faculty grants, scholarships, and student travel grants. Faculty are welcome to send proposals to Charlotte ahead of the next RFP for feedback. Charlotte's contact information is: Charlotte Moats-Gallagher, Oregon State University-International Programs Chair, Asia Initiative, University Internationalization Liaison. [char.moats-gallagher@oregonstate.edu](mailto:char.moats-gallagher@oregonstate.edu)  
541.737.6406

**Update on ISE Proposal** – Eric Hansen for Lech Muszynski

Lech Muszynski took the lead on the WSE letter of intent that was submitted to the research office and was chosen as one of the two full proposals to go forward from OSU. Lech submitted the proposal to CSREES, and an announcement of the awards is expected to be made in June. This WSE proposal would fund several \$9000 fellowships for short term graduate student exchanges in foreign labs (3 week work stints at one of several universities in Germany or Uppsala, Sweden). [For details on the ISE program, see USDA – CSREES – International Science and Education (ISE) Competitive Grants Program <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/educationinternationalscience.cfm>.] Contact Lech for more information on the WSE proposal.

**Atlantis Program Invitation to Participate** – Klaus Puettmann and Jim Johnson

This EU-US university partnership program is initiated by European universities, and for the third year in a row OSU was invited to participate. The last two years we declined (FEC not interested at the time, busy with College restructuring and budget issues). This year Klaus was contacted by his colleague Heinrich Spieker at University of Freiburg with the invitation for OSU to partner with Freiburg and with Nancy (France) as the other EU partner (with whom they already have a dual degree program). Yale was suggested as the other potential US partner. EU funds the two European institutions, and the US Department of Education funds the US universities. The RFP came out in late December, and the proposal deadline is March 23. We already have MOUs with Nancy and ENGREF, Marcus Kleber from Nancy is teaching at OSU in Crop and Soil Sciences, and Klaus was at Freiburg last year on sabbatical, so we already have relationships with these highly respected institutions and it looks like a good invitation to accept. Jim is bringing it to the IPAC for a decision.

Background: The European Union-United States Atlantis Program is a grant competition conducted cooperatively by the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC). The purpose of this competition is to promote a student-centered, transatlantic dimension to higher education and training in a wide range of academic and professional disciplines. The Atlantis Program funds collaborative efforts to develop programs of study leading to joint or dual undergraduate or graduate degrees (Masters level, not PhD). The program will also fund a small number of policy-oriented grants and one-team mobility grants. There are several types of programs from which to choose (four year student exchange program for 24 students from each institution over four years, 6 per year for one year study abroad, funded at about \$420,000 to \$480,000; graduate, undergraduate, or faculty exchanges and curriculum development; short term exchanges funded at about \$180,000; includes administrative funding). For more information on the Atlantis Program, see <http://www.ed.gov/programs/fipseec/index.html> [http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/index_en.html)

OSU Mechanical Engineering is currently participating in this program so OSU is getting some direct experience. Sally Francis of the Graduate School has a little concern about the dual degree aspect of the program. We can talk with faculty members who have advised International Degree students for their perspective.

Recommendations: Klaus tell Spieker that we are interested and find out what they need from us to get the ball rolling. It would be best to include all COF programs and departments in the proposal for maximum flexibility, and market the program with a seminar and flyers.

### **Update on USAID proposal for Africa Project – Badege Bishaw**

Higher Education for Development-USAID Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grants program will support planning for long-term partnerships to strengthen the capacity of African higher education institutions in the areas of (1) agriculture, environment and natural resources, (2) health, (3) science and technology, (4) engineering, (5) education and teacher training/preparation, and (6) business, management and economics and increase the engagement of U.S. higher education institutions in Africa. USAID will fund 20 five-month-long planning grants for \$50,000 each (see <http://www.hedprogram.org/tabid/66/itemid/182/AfricaUS-Higher-Education-Initiative-Planning-G.aspx>). From these initial planning grants, a second competitive grant will fund five or six larger projects. OSU was limited to two proposals, and one of the two chosen was put forward by Badege, John Bliss, Steve Sharrow, and Kathy Howell (along with partners from Hawassa University in Ethiopia, whose dean was here on sabbatical this year and collaborated on the proposal). The funding will provide travel costs for partners to go to Ethiopia and conduct a needs assessment, improve technological infrastructure and increase capacity for internet-based education at Hawassa University. The National Association of University Forestry Research Programs (NAUFRP) put forward two proposals, and OSU is a partner in both of them:

- Uganda project with Penn State
- Ghana project with Northern Arizona University.

Other partners include NC State, Minnesota, and Montana. If any of these are successful proposals, someone from OSU will go to Africa to help with the planning meeting. Opportunities include graduate student research, curriculum development, faculty development, and technology development. Wondo Genet College of Forestry has made a separate proposal to fund the training of its faculty members and would like to send their students to PhD programs around the world. The College is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary next month, and Badege has been invited to attend.

### **Peace Corps Masters International Program update – David Zahler**

Twelve students have inquired about the program and three of them appear to be seriously interested. Need to identify interested faculty members willing to be major advisors, connect students to interested faculty, and make sure no PCMI applicants fall through the cracks in the registration process, because there is not a clear indication on their online application that they are applying to the PCMI program. Suggestions from the Committee:

- Ask faculty again if they are interested in participating in the program, and possibly put a link on the PCMI website to faculty and their areas of expertise, as a way to connect students with a willing major advisor (potentially Eric Hansen, Chris Knowles, and Bo Shelby, based on their interests).
- Ask each department office manager to keep an eye out for mention of PCMI in online applications that come in to them.
- Ask if there could be a check box for PCMI added to online applications to make it more obvious.
- Ask Joe Hoff if faculty members who have worked with International Degree students would be available to talk with potential major advisors for PCMI students.

Q and A:

Funding? There is no funding connected to the program.

Why are no FERM programs mentioned on the poster? Arbitrary – asked faculty if interested, only included programs for those who had replied. From initial responses, included MS in Forest Science,

MS in Forest Resources, and MS in Wood Science & Engineering on application so those programs are listed on the Memorandum of Cooperation. Fairly easy to add new programs now that we are approved. John and Loren suggest adding Forest Operations, Forest Engineering and Forest Hydrology.

[Background: When we applied the previous year, there was no specific forestry component in the Natural Resources and the Environment RFP, so we included Colleges of Science, Agricultural Sciences, and Forestry in the proposal and were not accepted. This time there was a forestry component, so we reapplied with a more narrowly targeted proposal and were successful. There are about eleven universities that have a PCMI program in forestry, and one of the first and most active is at Michigan Tech.]

**Update on search for new Associate Provost for International Programs – Jim Johnson**

Joe Hendricks is serving as Interim Associate Provost for International Programs. Last year's search had about 50 applicants from which three finalists were chosen, but none of them completely satisfied the search committee so the search was reopened. The new search closes on February 27. Jim is head of the search committee, and they have had about 20 applicants. Even though the state is reducing the higher education budget, the search is still moving forward.

**IPAC-sponsored coffee featuring Dr. Don Lee, President of IUFRO – Jim Johnson**

Dr. Don Lee, President of IUFRO, is here for one year on sabbatical from Korea, the country that will host the 2010 World Congress in Seoul. We would like to invite him to be our featured guest at an International Coffee to provide an opportunity for the College to welcome him and to learn about his research and experience with IUFRO. We used to do these types of International Programs coffees on a monthly basis until the IP budget was severely reduced.

**Recommendations:**

- Plan the coffee, invite Dr. Lee, and John Sessions will provide funds for coffee and fruit/pastries. (Thanks, John.)
- Ask department heads to find out what current and past IUFRO officers are here, and invite them personally (including Loren (Division 3.10), John (Division 3.0), Jim (Division 6) and retired folks such as Bob Buckman and John Garland).
- Check on IUFRO website for names.