

OSU College of Forestry International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary 24 April 2009

Prepared by Susan Morr 

Advisory Committee members present: Jim Johnson, Chair (Associate Dean, International Programs); Badege Bishaw, Susan Morr  and David Zahler (FES); Eric Hansen (WSE).

Advisory Committee members absent: John Bliss, Dave Hibbs, Loren Kellogg, Tzeng Yih Lam, Jeff Morrell, John Sessions.

Peace Corps Masters International Program update – David Zahler

David made an annual report to the Peace Corps, and says we are about where we are expected to be with a new program. Twelve students have inquired about the program, six are very serious about going to graduate school in the fall, and four of them appear to be seriously interested in OSU, and potentially as PCMI students. Three are taking or have recently taken the GRE. One student wants to work with Eric Hansen and Chris Knowles, another has met with Ed Jensen and David, and third has met with Klaus and David. One student is interested in beginning the program in fall 2010. Prospective students need to be accepted for admission to the university first, and then to the Peace Corps. Students should talk with David and their potential major advisor first before registering for any classes. Lisa Ganio (FES graduate student coordinator) is on the lookout for these applications – David never sees them. We agree that it would be helpful for the Graduate School, or at least the Departments, to flag these PCMI applications somehow. Jim had previously recommended a check box on the actual OSU application. David made a PCMI brochure for a recent tabling event. Links to a high-quality print version (29 MB) is at

http://fmc.cof.orst.edu/temp/pcmi/2009_8x11brochure.pdf and a bit lower resolution but easier to download version is at http://fmc.cof.orst.edu/temp/pcmi/2009_8x11brochure_lowres.pdf

Atlantis Program Invitation to Participate – 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, but each year the invitation has come relatively late. The last two years we declined due to internal restructuring and budget issues, and this year the invitation came a little too late to get all four partner universities on board. Klaus Puettmann's colleague Heinrich Spiecker at University of Freiburg invited 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, but they never responded to inquiries, and there was only minimal response from Nancy. Jim thinks it looks like a good invitation to accept for next year so we have adequate preparation time and can find a complementary US partner that is interested in participating. Jim suggested asking Penn State, and has spoken with Mike Messina, director of their School of Forest Resources. Mike expressed interest, and noted that Penn State has a long-standing two-way exchange with Freiburg. New faculty member Eric Zenner did his undergraduate work at Freiburg, and took Klaus' place in Minnesota before going to Penn State. Jim is waiting to hear back from Mike. Heinrich suggested asking Umea (Sweden) or Joensuu (Finland) to be the other European partner. Eric noted that while both Penn State and OSU both have wood products programs, he isn't sure if the other European institutions mentioned have one (Joensuu does). Jim and Heinrich have agreed to work over the rest of this year (2009) to prepare for next year's RFP, with the Committee's approval. At a recent meeting, OSU College of Engineering's current participation in the Atlantis dual degree undergraduate program was discussed. Sally Francis (dean of the Graduate School) expressed concerns about the dual-degree

aspects of the program, which requires a higher level of cooperation at both institutions. Jim will consult with her about her willingness to support our participation in Atlantis, with undergraduates spending years 1, 2, and 4 at OSU and year 3 abroad at either Freiburg or the other European partner institution. We should also identify people here who would be willing to serve as advisors for students in the program. We can also consider participating in the shorter-term exchange program (see below), but we should decide in the next few weeks if we want to participate with Freiburg in the Atlantis program.

Background from February meeting: 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). 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 was March 23. 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> and http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/index_en.html.

Recommendations: The Committee supports the advance preparation for next year's RFP. Jim and Klaus will stay in touch with Heinrich as we move forward in identifying the other two partner universities, deciding which type of program we want to participate in, and making preparations for the next RFP. As previously recommended, it would be best to include all COF programs and departments in the proposal for maximum flexibility, learn from OSU ME's experience in the program, address any concerns that Sally Francis of the Graduate School may have, and market the program when the time is right with a seminar and flyers.

Scandinavian Tour Update – Eric Hansen

Eleven students are now enrolled in the 2-credit seminar course associated with the 29 August – 13 September ScanTour. Two WSE students received \$1500 from the Dean's office and another \$500 from WSE to help pay their expenses. Overall, the \$4900 cost covers all expenses (air and ground transportation, food, lodging) except tuition. Air travel and lodging are all set, and ground transportation is being finalized now. They are renting two vans for the trip, and they are trying to get local Finnish students to drive them in Helsinki. Teel is the travel agent they used. If this tour is offered again, they will schedule it after 2 September when the costs go down.

Proposed Ph.D. Programme on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources – Badege Bishaw Ethiopia has stated a goal of training 5000 Ph.D. students over the next 10 years. Badege attended the college's anniversary celebration recently, and reports that 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 include Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Wageningen University (Netherlands), University of Helsinki (Finland), and University of Bangor (United Kingdom). OSU has been working with Wondo Genet since 2002. We have helped them develop a BS and MS program already, and have been helping them improve their technological capacity. Kathy Howell and Sean San Romani from OSU COF Computing Services are going to Wondo Genet from 21 May – 7 June to upgrade their campus networking system. Internet is still limited, but hopefully that can be improved soon to enable them to participate in Distance Education courses as well.

Update on USAID proposal for Africa Project – Badege Bishaw
Project was not selected.

International Forestry Students Association – Susan Morr  for Lam

Lam has met with Jim Johnson to coordinate planning for an IFSA/International Programs seminar by Dr. Don Lee, hopefully in late May. The seminar will be scheduled for the end of the day (4:30 – 5:30) so it can be followed by a social hour. Lam will let us know the date when he has confirmed with Dr. Lee.