

OSU College of Forestry International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
15 October 2009

Prepared by Susan Morré

Advisory Committee members present: Jim Johnson, Chair (Associate Dean, International Programs); Badege Bishaw, John Bliss, Dave Hibbs, Susan Morré and David Zahler (FES); Jeff Morrell (WSE).

Other attendees: Klaus Puettmann (FERM)

Advisory Committee members absent: Eric Hansen, Loren Kellogg, John Sessions and Tzeng Yih Lam.

Atlantis Program – Jim Johnson and Klaus Puettmann

Heinrich Spiecker contacted us again to find out if we are interested in partnering with University of Freiburg in one of the three Atlantis program types. Eric Zenner (Penn State) is not interested in being a second US partner institution because PSU already has a long-standing exchange program with Freiburg. Jim also contacted Auburn, University of Florida and Virginia Tech, but none expressed interest. For a second European partner, Nancy (France) did not respond yet, but other potential partners are Joensuu University, Helsinki, or Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Klaus added that the Atlantis program funding is intended to provide seed money to give international exposure and establish longer-term international relationships and curricula.

Potential programs to include: undergraduate natural resources, tourism and outdoor leadership, recreation resource management, green building and marketing, corporate social responsibility, conservation biology, NR policy. Potential faculty include Mark Harmon, Bev Law, Dave Turner, Efren Cazares, Eric Hansen, Chris Knowles, and others.

General agreement: this program is in line with the provost's international strategy for the university; option 1 (dual degree) would be more difficult to do (challenge of getting six students per year to study abroad, two language requirements); participating in shorter term exchanges of option 2 is more feasible.

Recommendation: Tell Heinrich that we are interested in participating with them in option 2, and potential programs include undergraduate Natural Resources, graduate level Green Building, Green Marketing, Global Climate Change.

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

[Background from April meeting: 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 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 (funded by USAID) to help develop a BS and MS program and improve their technological capacity, including upgrading their campus networking system.]

Badege traveled to Ethiopia in March and September this year to meet with the consortium. Sweden's SIDA has already sent the funds to the Ethiopian government. Individual MOUs are being developed now for each of the partner universities. Addis Ababa 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. (See curriculum handout.)

There have been 25 exchanges already between OSU and Wondo Genet (13 WG students and faculty came here, including two deans, one on sabbatical; two OSU students and ten faculty and staff went there). Once the program is launched, 80 Ethiopians with Master's degrees can get a PhD through this program to teach in the eight or nine new universities that Ethiopia plans to open. Students will be recruited through national outreach efforts. Approximately 16 students per year will be admitted in three major areas (Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Landscape Management, and Climate Change and Bioenergy). Wondo Genet has 16 PhDs now who can work as co-advisors with our faculty to learn how to build and run a PhD program.

Next steps: A member from each partner institution will attend a one-week retreat in a private area in Ethiopia to work out the specifics (Jim and Badege may both go). Ethiopia wants to start the program in fall 2010.

Faculty participation: How do we announce the program and find out what faculty are interested?

Recommendation: Contact deans and department heads of COAS, Science, Geosciences, Political Science, Ag, AREC to discuss potential interest. Talk with Marion McNamara in OSU International Programs office. Talk with teaching, research, and extension faculty. Consider emeritus faculty if need more. Need to pay for teaching and for advising.

Peace Corps Master's International Program Update – David Zahler

One student has started the program, and is 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 Peace Corps assignment. There have been many other inquiries from diverse and well-qualified students. The target is six students in the program, with 1 – 2 new students coming in each year.

OSU International Report details - Jim

Campus-level administration of OSU International Programs is being restructured. The English Language Institute was absorbed into the new INTO program. The Associate Provost and Director of INTO positions are being combined into a single position, and a search will be done soon to fill the position. Joe Hendricks came out of retirement to fill the interim AP position, and will gladly go back into retirement on December 31 of this year. Chris Bell (INTO) may apply for the new position. Joe Hoff heads up the International Degree and Education Abroad (IDEA) program. International Research and Development has been severely cut to two part-time positions (Marion McNamara and Charlotte Moats-Gallagher) with uncertain funding levels for the next year. Many universities fund their International Programs with international student tuition. There are about 250 INTO students at OSU now. Jim has been working to help fund the IP office with some of the INTO program's tuition revenue, but that still needs to be solidified.

Recommendation: Attend January meeting to show support for funding International Programs.