

# OSU College of Forestry International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

26 April 2010

RH 107

Prepared by Susan Morr 

Advisory Committee members present: Jim Johnson, Eric Hansen, Dave Hibbs, Susan Morr , Jeff Morrell, John Sessions

Advisory Committee members absent: Badege Bishaw, John Bliss, Loren Kellogg, David Zahler

## ***1. Review and feedback on CoF International Programs website redesign (Susan and Eric)***

Suggestions:

The menu bar could include these items:

- Current projects
- Cooperators
- Affiliations
- Information for Faculty/Staff
  - Funding Opportunities
  - Travel Risk
  - Organizational Affiliations
  - International Links
- Information for Students
  - Natural Resources Advising Guide
  - Funding Opportunities
  - Study Abroad
  - PCMI
  - IFSA
  - EWB
  - Organizational Affiliations
- International Seminars (organized by region)
- IPAC

The first page could include who we are, calendar, and links. Move the newsletters to the T drive. Work with Chris Smith on the redesign.

## ***2. UN Forum on Forests International Year of Forests 2011 – potential OSU activities (Jim)***

Reviewed previous suggestions. Kids Day for Conservation? Luanne Lawrence – whole issue focus.

## ***3. Peace Corps Masters International Program update (Jim for David Zahler)***

Ramona Arechiga is our first PCMI student, and she is working with John Bailey. She has a GTA for FOR 111. In the fall, Ben Schiek intends to start working with Jo Albers. Jim accepted a Michigan student, who then decided to go to the Peace Corps without the master's program. A future teleconference will be held with the USDA Forest Service to discuss internship money for PCMI students.

## ***4. Updates on:***

- a. European/US/Ethiopian University Consortium for Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Ph.D. Program in Ethiopia –curriculum, OSU faculty participation***

No progress since last meeting.

### ***b. MNR program status***

External review is the next step. Jo Ellen Force (University of Idaho), Linda Hardesty (Washington State University), and Mitch McClaran (University of Arizona) have all agreed to serve as external reviewers. Martin Fisk of the OSU Graduate School has scheduled the review on June 14-15. We are putting together a packet of all MNR course syllabi and instructor CVs to provide to the reviewers ahead of time. After the external review, we hope to have the MNR program on the docket for the OUS/Board of Higher Education meeting in July in order to admit students for fall term.

### ***c. Virginia meeting (Jim)***

Jim attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources, hosted by Virginia Tech. Conference website is <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/cuenr/index.html> but no proceedings are available yet. Keynote speaker focused on the growth and importance of online education.

### ***5. Upcoming meeting in British Columbia on Forestry Education in China (Jim)***

Jim, Badege, and Alfonso Bradoch from Ecampus will attend the International Partnership in Forestry Education's May symposium in Vancouver BC. Joensuu and University of British Columbia jointly administer IPFE, guided by Chairman Hosny El-Lakany, the retired head of FAO Forestry Department. The symposium will center on building stronger university links with China, and report progress with issues and themes that were identified at the 2008 IPFE Symposium in Beijing. Participants will report on joint educational programs and initiatives, and will explore future collaborations. Topic areas include promotion of forest education globally, regional forestry education networks, online education in forestry, course-based masters graduate programs in forestry and incorporating global issues in a universal core curriculum. Badege will give a presentation on the new online Master of Natural Resources program at OSU.

### ***6. IFSA recent activities and future plans update (Susan)***

### ***7. Other items (Joe Hoff, new MOUs, new international visitors, etc.)***

- Joe Hoff (International Degree and Education Abroad Director) is leaving OSU to accept a position as Associate Dean of International Education at University of Richmond, Virginia.
- New MOUs currently being signed include:
  - TAPIO (Finland); Eric Hansen liaison
  - University of Valladolid (Spain); Jim Johnson liaison, Doug Maguire study tour
  - Chiang Mai University (Thailand); Dave Hibbs is OSU liaison
- Proposed but not moving yet:
  - CONAFOR (Mexico); Eric Hansen and Rick Fletcher connections
  - University of Guadalajara (Mexico); unsure of status
- Georgi Kostov from the Ministry of Agriculture in Bulgaria was here recently and gave a seminar in the College. He is interested in developing an extension program in Bulgaria, and Jim is going to give a lecture at the University of Forestry in Sofia in May. They will explore the topic further, and identify how OSU may help them design such a program. We are exploring an MOU with UF Sofia.
- New international scholars coming soon:
  - WSE (from Jeff Morrell and Fred Kamke):
    - Dr. Amer Shah an Assistant Professor from the University of Agriculture in Faisalabad in Pakistan is spending the year with us- he arrived in December with his family. He is supported by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

- Mr. Nicholas Blanchard will join us as a summer intern. He is a student at ENSTIB at the University of Nancy (Universite Henri Poincare).
- Mr. Kennedy Sichamba from Cooper Belt University in Zambia has joined our program to pursue an MS. He will be working with Scott Leavengood and me looking at enhanced utilization of underutilized species using western juniper as his model species.
- Dr. Shojun Li of the Northeast Forestry University in Harbin, PRC- spent 3 months (January to March) in our lab working with the potential for using natural product extracts for wood protection.
- Josef Weissensteiner will begin an internship July 28; currently a student at BOKU in Vienna. Josef has also applied for graduate studies at OSU to begin January 2011.

FERM (from John Sessions):

- Andriy Polovskyy, a Fulbright scholar and Assistant Professor at National Forestry University, Ukraine.
- Christopher Warburg, a graduate student from Kenya.

### ***8. Study Abroad Strategy (Jim)***

At the request of OSU's International Council (IC), the Faculty Engagement Committee of the IC will hold a Study Abroad Mini-Retreat at The Depot on Washington Street on May 26. Our purpose is to assess and identify opportunities and motivations for broader faculty engagement in faculty-led study abroad experiences for our students and to identify barriers as well as opportunities. Our deliberations will be summarized in a report to the IC, the new Associate Provost for International Programs, and to Becky Warner, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and International Programs. We want to know what things the university does, what funding is available, if the department recovers the tuition (like it does with Ecampus and summer courses).

Eric shared his experience in the Scandinavian study tour: they did a pretour, met and vetted people and places, estimated \$3000 per student for a 2-week tour, recovered half their costs, excluding tuition; WSE department head provided \$500 per each undergraduate participant, and the dean provided some money. They chose Scandinavia because they had a network of contacts there and have interest in the area.

Barriers: funding sources, need seed money and local contacts; need to be able to pay local contacts to handle logistics of local travel, etc.; no P&T value currently; cost is an issue for some; OSU forestry students are not very internationally focused.

Opportunities: post international links to IP webpage and highlight study tours.

Dave Hibbs might lead a study tour to northern Thailand or Costa Rica. There are opportunities with CONAFOR in Mexico, but WSE is not going anytime soon.