

OSU College of Forestry International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Friday 11 April 2011 9 – 10:30 am
RH 115

Prepared by Susan Morr 

Advisory Committee members present: Jim Johnson, Chris Knowles, Eric Hansen, Doug Maguire, Susan Morr , John Bliss, David Zahler, Badege Bishaw
Invited participant: Sunil Khanna, Ed Jensen

Advisory Committee members absent: John Sessions, Ashlee Tibbets

AGENDA

1. *Dialog with Sunil Khanna, new Associate Provost, International Programs* (Jim Johnson/Sunil Khanna) (See 9-page [OSU International Program handout](#) for details.)

Sunil Khanna is the new Associate Provost for OSU International Programs (IP), a new position that reports directly to the Provost. Sunil's first work at OSU was with International Programs, so he has some background with this multi-layered program. He is seeking feedback from all the Colleges as he develops a new higher-profile structure to publicize the many activities, responsibilities, and services provided by IP personnel. He views study abroad as a very important component of a student's experience at OSU, because it will give them a professional advantage in our increasingly globalized world and internationally diverse workforce. He has found that many faculty are not aware of current Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and the level of international activities. To address this information gap, Sunil will:

- help the Provost develop a strategic direction for international engagement and education,
- help communicate the CoF International Programs' strategies and activities to the Provost,
- help market OSU teaching, research and outreach programs to an international audience (INTO packages OSU programs) and help recruit and retain international students and scholars,
- develop an international asset profile for each college and create an OSU-wide matrix to help everyone understand what international activities are going on in each college.

Some of Sunil's observations and responses to questions from the committee:

- OSU has seen an increase in number of students studying abroad, from 434 in 2009-2010 to 484 in 2010-2011. By comparison, CoF saw a decline from 13 to only 4 students abroad this year (tied with College of Education for lowest number out of nine colleges).
- However, a large number (78) of CoF international scholars used IP International Student and Faculty Services to secure their visas.
- Several institutions in India have expressed an interest in developing dual degree programs (2 + 2 or 3 + 1). Common for Indian parents/potential students to ask about OSU's ranking, while Indonesians more frequently asked about the crime rate here.
- CoF and College of Agricultural Sciences share similar internationalization goals.
- If the IP Small Grants Program increases the cost share amount (currently 15%) they could fund more projects.
- He hopes that INTO, international, distance, Pathways, and all other OSU students are seen equally as OSU students.

- IP budget is growing, plan to invest more resources and add additional FTE. INTO OSU is part of the International Student Services office, and has 11 FTE. There are 4.25 FTE in International Scholar and International Degree and Education Abroad office. Michele Justice is the new full-time director.
- We need to invest more effort in preparing students for an international experience and strengthen our foreign language curriculum, either online or through other regional programs. Sunil is working on creation of a curriculum linkage with University of Oregon to provide our students broader access to foreign language classes.
- International degree program has a 50% attrition rate due to the thesis requirement; considering having a project option.
- Some student support is available through the international cultural resources program and the Provost's International Scholarship.

Sunil would be happy to attend all of our quarterly IPAC meetings, and help CoF identify ways to increase our international engagement.

2. Overview of Fulbright Experience at ATREE in India (Sally Duncan)

Two years ago, Sally spent three months in India on a Fulbright sponsored by the nongovernmental organization Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), based in Bangalore, India. She had direct experience working with ATREE Director Gladwin Joseph, who received his master's degree and PhD from OSU College of Forestry. ATREE was founded by Kamal Bawa, a professor at the University of Boston, and receives grant funding from the Indian government and U.S. foundations that see a huge future for environmental restoration and conservation in India. We invited her input as we explore ways to operationalize our new MOU with ATREE. Ideas for collaboration:

- OSU Colleges of Business and Engineering both have active MOUs with India. There is a need for the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry to build stronger connections with India for two-way learning opportunities. Institute for Natural Resources is a natural partner (similar to ATREE in providing bridge between university research and application of new knowledge to address real-world issues).
- Opportunities exist to transform restoration and conservation activities into economic development projects. Example: a growing new furniture industry is using invasive *Lantana camara* as furniture material source. An ATREE fellow came to OSU and worked with Lech Muszynski for four months on a TREX-like composite product made of lantana branches and waste plastic.
- Wetland issues are another potential collaboration area: At a fishermen's meeting in Kerala on the southwest coast of India, she learned about wetland issues, published an article on it that brought to the issues to light and now the Indian government is forced to deal with them.
- Sustainable agriculture projects: climate change and warmer temperatures allow three crops per year instead of two. Bangalore flower market impact also?
- Ecotourism cabins
- Green building – new ATREE building is LEED-certified (much harder to achieve than US version); new CoF renewable materials program opportunities for interaction.
- Great idea to send students both ways between OSU and ATREE, with 3, 6, 9, and 12 month options.

Sunil visited ATREE with President Ed Ray and expressed an interest in helping move this forward.

3. Update on Spain Study Tour planned for Sept. 2011 (Doug Maguire)

The College of Forestry has a very active MOU with University of Valladolid (UVa). Doug Maguire spent time at UVa in fall 2009, and UVa faculty member Jose Reque spent time at OSU last fall. (European mobility grants help their faculty and students come here.) Doug and Susan have been working together with Jose to develop a 10-day study tour to Spain September 13 – 23, 2011, which was approved by the Study Abroad Advisory Committee, titled “Forest Management in Spain: The Cultural, Political and Biophysical Context.” (See [brochure](#).) Students will meet in Madrid, take the train to Palencia, and stay at the Hostal Tres de Noviembre while going on daily field trips with UVa faculty and students. It is open to undergraduate and graduate students, and Doug hopes ten students will go. [UPDATE: As of May 6, nine students have applied, and the costs has been reduced by about \$2000 per student due to cheaper airfare and ground transportation, lower administrative cost, Hal’s contribution of \$7500, and Thomas Maness’s contribution of \$2500 of FERM funds to two students to produce a short video for the department webpage.]

4. Experiences and challenges of Scandinavian Study Tour (Eric Hansen and Chris Knowles)

The Scandinavian study tour “Production of Housing in Scandinavia: Innovation, Conservation and Design with Natural Resources” is scheduled for August 26 – September 10. CoF student participants will each receive \$1500 from Board of Visitors funds. Ten students are signed up so far, including nine graduate students, six of whom are from University of Oregon’s (UO) Architecture program. They expect to break even this year. The UO collaboration registration process has been very challenging. UO scholarship students have to get UO credits instead of OSU transfer credits, so they each have to pay an additional \$350 to the UO International Programs office. Working with Joe Hoff on prior programs was a great experience, but it has been more difficult working with current IDEA staff. Chris and Eric are planning a Portland State University – OSU – UO collaborative study tour and are working to streamline the process.

Summary of this year’s study tour: Our interdisciplinary program in Finland and Sweden examines the housing industry from multiple perspectives that address regional sustainability. Faculty from OSU and the University of Oregon lead a small group of students with interests in housing and natural resources. Past participating undergraduate and graduate students came from a wide variety of majors including Renewable Materials, Architecture, Forest Management, Business, Housing Studies, Environmental Economics, and Nuclear Engineering.

5. Bulgaria Extension Program development project (Jim Johnson)

Jim, Janean Creighton, Rick Fletcher, and Eric Norland (National Program Leader for Forest Resource Management, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture) are headed to Bulgaria from April 25th to May 5th for a two-week extension service development scoping trip funded by the American for Bulgaria Foundation. They will work with University of Forestry-Sofia to visit numerous sites and lay the groundwork to develop an extension service for Bulgaria.

Background: In March 2010 the Bulgarian Vice Minister of Forestry and Agriculture visited OSU, and in May 2010 Jim was invited and funded to go to Bulgaria and give a fuller presentation of ideas to develop an extension program there that fits their circumstances. In October 2010, Susan and Jim hosted two Vice Rectors from University of Forestry-Sofia for two weeks each for a training program at various locations in Oregon and California, also funded by the America for Bulgaria Foundation.

Next spring another group from Sofia will come here, and may expand the extension service development to include agriculture.