

MEETING SUMMARY
International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday 11 January 2012 2 – 3:30 pm RH 115

Members present: Jim Johnson, Chair, and Susan Morr  (CoF International Programs); Badege Bishaw and John Bliss, (FES); Doug Maguire (FERM); Chris Knowles and Arijit Sinha (WSE); David Zahler (PCMI), Will Hollamon (IFSA). Absent: Robin Rose
Guest: Ed Jensen (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education)

1. *Introduction of new International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) president Will Hollamon*

Will is a third year Wood Science & Engineering student from Drain, Oregon. He comes from a forest products industry family. Last year he and IFSA officer Justin Long attended the IFSA Symposium in Finland, tying it to the short-term study tour of Scandinavia (led by Chris Knowles and Eric Hansen). Will and Richard Schuster of University of British Columbia were elected IFSA Regional Co-Representatives for North America (there are 8 IFSA regions). Will has just returned from the IFSA Officials meeting in Denmark, which was attended by the IFSA 7 organizing board and other Regional Representatives. Workshops were held on the University of Copenhagen campus.

2. *Recent and upcoming IFSA activities (Will Hollamon)*

The 2012 IFSA symposium will be held in Turkey. IFSA hopes to raise money for Will and three other OSU IFSA members to attend. On February 29th, OSU IFSA members will host another International Luncheon as a fundraiser for their attendance at this international IFSA meeting and for Linn Benton Food Share. This event also provides an opportunity to show the College of Forestry what IFSA is about and to recruit new members. OSU IFSA is planning a North American Regional Meeting to host the IFSA chapter of University of British Columbia soon – hopefully this spring or summer. Richard of UBC is emailing other North American schools to invite them to develop an IFSA chapter to expand the North American membership. Quebec also has an IFSA chapter. (Jim noted that at the recent SAF meeting in Honolulu, NAUFRP decided to join IPFE, and someone gave a short presentation on IFSA, encouraging college deans to support establishment of IFSA chapters at their institutions.

3. *Report on Corvallis International Forest Film Festival (Susan Morr )*

The international forest film festival has been well-attended by both university and community members (nearly 1000 people have attended the screenings of 17 films). The College has been granted permission to keep the films for future showings in courses here at OSU or at the Cascades campus, or for loan to community groups for viewing. IFSA may use them as well. It would be nice to follow up the screenings with a discussion, perhaps led by a speaker with expertise in the specific topics. Alexa St. Clair has volunteered to give a talk on the mechanics of

time-lapse and macrophotography if we are interested. Ed suggested IFSA might facilitate another weekly film showing and discussion.

4. *Update on Bulgaria Extension Program development project (Jim Johnson)*

Jim led a one-week extension training event in Bulgaria during the first week of October, right after the last IPAC meeting. Janean Creighton, Rick Fletcher, and Jim facilitated the workshops for 18 Bulgarian trainees and interpreters as another step in helping Bulgaria develop an extension service. David Zahler helped prepare handouts and PowerPoint slide shows that were sent to Bulgaria ahead of the workshop for translation. On Day 1, participants chose a key forest issue around which they would develop a mock educational program. On Day 5 they returned to the field to give their presentations and to discuss how to give effective presentations, define the target audience and identify potential issues (such as wildfires, abandoned agricultural lands, managing pine plantations on former hardwood sites, and managing beech forests). The final day was a debriefing session. This was a life-changing event for some participants, who expressed how critically important the development of an extension service is for Bulgaria.

The next step will be a 9-day visit to Oregon in March by three Bulgarians. They will attend Clackamas County Tree School and learn about OSU Extension administration, grant management, etc. The Bulgarians have succeeded in getting their state forestry agency on board so they see them as partners, not competitors. Jim has participated in similar trainings in Slovenia and Latvia as part of an FAO-funded five-country project.

Discussion followed about:

- the hunger for this type of training for other eastern European countries who are returning communist government-owned land back to private ownership since the demise of the USSR.
- a cultural shift in these countries' forest service organizations as they face the challenge of dealing with many owners of small parcels with access issues, and the advantage of tying an extension service to universities rather than to government agencies.
- European government institutional support of educational opportunities to rebuild forest capacity, and inherent conflict for government foresters trying to serve as both regulators and extension advisors.

5. *Discussion of strategic engagement with Chinese universities (Jim Johnson and Ed Jensen)*

OSU administration has recently signed MOUs with several Chinese institutions but some of them have not had any follow-on activities. Ed shared his observations about effective recruiting of Chinese students and how to get more OSU students to go to China as well. (See Ed's handout, about his recent discussion with Steve Healy, the Asia coordinator for INTO, based in Hong Kong; experience of University of British Columbia and Michigan State; Chronicle of Higher Ed article on 11/11/11.) Considering potential agreements with specific institutions in China, India and Europe,

we want to focus on building strategic relationships, not just going after increased international student enrollment. At the recent UBC IPFE meeting, Ed, Jim and Badege saw a large cadre of Chinese students and active relationships with Chinese institutions. The UBC College of Forestry has a full-time China coordinator and a large international staff that work to develop international programs. (This may be easier in Vancouver due to its large Asian population, which provides a greater comfort level for Asian students.) Discussion followed on:

- the appropriateness of some agreements that offer dual degrees with European institutions for the same body of work for graduate students.
- high competition among US universities for high-quality Chinese students.
- Asian and Indian students seeking high-ranked US colleges for their education because there are not enough high-quality institutions in their own country to accommodate the number of students seeking entry, and because of the high quality of US institutions.
- need for more nurturing environment for incoming students; advantages of forestry and agriculture students coming together as a group (e.g. Nanjing Forestry University and Nanjing Agricultural University – coordinate with David Hannaway).
- advantages of having a half-time or full-time person in CoF to champion, cultivate, and maintain international relationships, entrepreneurial type to attract funding.
- targeting which Chinese universities we want to forge relationships with, and consideration of potential 2 + 2 or 3 + 1 degree programs, internships, and short-term exchange opportunities for students and faculty. (Check with Eric about progress on Nanjing Forestry University 3 + 1.)

6. *Discussion of MOU with Iraq initiated by Catherine Mater (Jim Johnson)*

This MOU is focused on rebuilding the higher education sector in Iraq, especially in engineering, agriculture and forestry. There was some concern about OSU's ability to ensure the safety of our faculty, staff, and students in Iraq, so the agreement has been modified to only bring Iraqi faculty and students here.

7. *Upcoming visit by DAI representatives for mock USAID proposal brainstorm session (Jim Johnson)*

Two weeks from now, three DAI representatives are coming to OSU from their corporate headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. This international for-profit development corporation wants OSU to join a small group of university cooperators on international projects. Michigan State has been one of their main cooperators. DAI's Del McCluskey just bought a house here in Corvallis, where his sister lives. He will hold several 2 – 3 hour workshops to brainstorm about potential OSU involvement in World Bank/USAID projects and to show how DAI approaches responding to RFPs. The main proposal focal areas are: forestry REDD+, food security, and landscape development (community-based work that engages multiple aspects of rural economic

development). Jim put out a call to all CoF departments to invite faculty from CoF, CAS, and COAS to participate; refer more interested faculty to him. A new USAID RFP is coming soon – an Indefinite quantity contract (IQC). Originally there was one for Biodiversity of Forests (BIOFOR), followed by BIOFOR2, PLACE, and REPLACE. Each IQC runs for five years. When Jim was at Virginia Tech, they participated in BIOFOR. Then Virginia Tech switched from working with DAI to working with ARD, with whom they participated in PLACE shortly before Jim came to OSU. The agricultural IQC is called RAISE, and OSU is participating in it with ARD but has been invited to participate with DAI. DAI's goal is to identify OSU faculty they may want to work with and to show us how they go after USAID funding opportunities.

8. *Report on visit from Gondar University Vice President Dr. Desalegne Mengesha (Badege Bishaw)*

Gondar University Vice President Mengesha met with Badege and Jim during his OSU visit in December. His university has 20,000 students and about 1000 faculty who teach courses in Engineering, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Public Health. OSU Health & Human Services is the lead on our MOU with Gondar, and Dr. Mengesha says they would like to engage us more in the Natural Resources program. He is working with the Corvallis – Gondar Sister Cities Association to develop an action plan.

9. *Update on Peter Antico's Chile internship (Doug Maguire)*

Peter, a Forest Management student, is doing a six-credit international internship in Chile. He was on the Spain study tour last year. (See handout.) Some things didn't go as smoothly as desired, so things to keep in mind for future international internships: sufficient lead time and advance information on the internship project itself; advance planning to ensure access to adequate software programs (statistical packages for instance) either through OSU or the internship host institution; transportation arrangements to destinations beneficial for the intended research project; better internship guidelines to help students make use of existing IE3 resources (which Peter did not take advantage of.).

10. *Other?* Next agenda items:

- Akita International University visit on the next IPAC agenda – John Bliss and Kate MacTavish are headed there in three weeks to work on the curriculum with AIU colleagues.
- DAI visit and Bulgarian visit.