

MEETING SUMMARY

International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday 4 October 2012 9 am – 10:45 am RH 115

Members present: Jim Johnson, Chair, and Susan Morr  (CoF International Programs); Jo Albers and John Bliss, (FES); Doug Maguire (FERM); Chris Knowles and Arijit Sinha (WSE); David Zahler (PCMI), Will Hollamon (IFSA).

Absent: Robin Rose

Guest: Thomas Maness, Dean (arrived at 10 am for discussion)

1. Introductions, welcome to Jo Albers, and overview of her international activities

Jim characterized the purpose of this committee as being a booster for College of Forestry International Programs and activities, and a forum for recommendations. He discussed a few recent international projects, including last year's International Forest Film Festival.

Jo Albers is the newest member of the committee. She is an economist who works in the areas of biodiversity conservation and rural poverty in low-income countries. Early in her career she worked in Thailand, India, and China, then in Mexico, and for the last five years she has been working with the SIDA-funded Environment for Development Initiative (EFD). She works in Tanzania on forest conservation, REDD pilot projects, poverty alleviation, and marine protected areas (MPAs). Most recently she has been working with EFD in Costa Rica, Tanzania, and South Africa on MPAs, comparing the countries' approaches to expanding their MPA systems.

Q: Are there opportunities for graduate students in any of these projects?

A: She has little funding and needs time to write grants, which is in her long-range plan to make use of these in-country projects. EFD is interested in the policy and directly connected to the policy process in each of these countries.

Other introductions: David Zahler is Peace Corps Masters International (PCMI) coordinator, and is reinvested in it, having just returned from a national PCMI program meeting in Washington DC.

Ari Sinha completed his PhD at OSU and has been a WSE faculty member for a year. He is collaborating with Chris Knowles to plan a short study tour to India and with a Chinese university on sustainable bamboo production as part of the Renewable Materials program.

Chris Knowles completed his PhD at OSU and has been a WSE faculty member for five years. He conducts international wood products market research (mostly in Asia), and is planning a European trip to explore softwood markets. He and Eric Hansen lead short study tours to Scandinavia.

John Bliss is currently working on a collaborative teaching program with Akita International University in Japan, and has done some work in Africa. Two of his doctoral students conducted research in Ethiopia and one is in Ghana now doing research on populations adjacent to protected areas.

Will Hollamon is a senior in WSE and is president of the OSU chapter of the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), which was established in 2005 and is being actively revived after a short lull. OSU-IFSA members have participated in annual international IFSA meetings in South Korea, Finland and Turkey, and Will is the North American regional co-chair.

Jim Johnson is Associate Dean of Outreach and International Programs and Program Leader for Forestry & Natural Resources Extension. His more recent international work has been in Eastern Europe, South America and Africa. In the 1980s he took students on an eye-opening study abroad trip to Eastern Europe (East Germany, Poland, Hungary).

Susan Morr  has conducted environmental research in Sweden and participated in international forest policy working groups in the US and Japan (the only university representative on the US delegation to the Montreal Process Working Group meeting).

Doug Maguire arrived after the introductions. He has done international work in many parts of the world and is currently actively collaborating with colleagues in Spain. He is planning to lead a second short study tour to Spain next summer.

2. Discuss Thomas Maness' 7-point plan, particularly part 6 (Internationalize the College) (Jim Johnson)

How are faculty expected to contribute toward achievement of the 7-point plan? Thomas put out a call for people to work with Geoff Huntington on strategy teams for each of the points. John Bliss volunteered to chair the international strategy group, which also includes Jim Johnson, Jo Albers, and Nicole Strong. If anyone has interest, they are welcome to volunteer to serve on any of the teams.

Do we have a competitive advantage to focus on the Pacific Rim countries, or would it be preferable to start at the beginning and ask where we want to focus and where we can help build capacity? (Africa, India, South America...) Note: Gladwin Joseph from ATREE in Bangalore, India is here on a Fulbright until late November and is interested in identifying areas of collaboration between our two institutions.

What about international leadership in the College? Six years ago International Programs was funded at a 1.49 FTE level (John Hayes at 0.5 FTE as Associate Dean for International Programs, Badege Bishaw at .5 FTE as Director of International Programs, and Susan Morr  at 0.49 FTE as International Programs Assistant). After budget cuts, it is now funded at 0.35 FTE (Jim Johnson at 0.1 FTE Associate Dean and Susan at 0.25 FTE as IP Assistant).

3. DAI update and Ethiopia (Jim Johnson)

Jim met with DAI folks in Washington DC two weeks ago. DAI is a big international development company based in Bethesda, Maryland. One of their current projects involves helping to develop university-to-university partnerships in East Africa, including Tanzania and Kenya. Consortia such

as DAI, Chemonics, and ARD bid on international natural resource development projects on climate change, biodiversity conservation, etc. DAI held two workshops at OSU last January and invited OSU to join their consortium in the USAID REPLACE contract work. If DAI's proposal is funded, there will be work for OSU as part of a large indefinite quantity contract (IQC) soon to be released. IQC members get on a short list to compete for projects, which are funded in the \$50 – 100 million range. Missions can request money for particular projects. OSU is the new university on the DAI team (former universities included Colorado State and Michigan State).

Jim has worked with other international development groups for 15 years (Chemonics and ARD). OSU College of Forestry graduate Del McCluskey is head of DAI's Environmental Division, which does work with countries in conflict. Jim is hopeful that this will be a good partnership.

Jim accompanied OSU student athletes on a Beavers Without Borders service learning trip to Ethiopia, where they helped build two houses in Silte, about two hours south and west of Addis Ababa. It was an eye opener for the students and Jim, as they engaged with the local community in the building projects and in a soccer game. This is the fourth BWB trip – they have previously gone to Guatemala (twice) and Macedonia, where they worked with the European wing of Habitat for Humanity. They also took along several duffel bags of shoes to give to the local community for distribution to those most in need of them.

4. Akita International University / OSU collaboration update (John Bliss)

Yoshi Kumagai did his PhD at OSU with John Bliss in the early 2000s. After a post doc at Washington State, he returned to Japan to teach at the new university in Akita. He is now Dean of International Collaboration and Head of Basic Education. The focus of Akita International University is to train undergraduates in English, and develop globally savvy Japanese citizens. They have international faculty and students (approximately 750 students) in a beautiful campus which was previously built by Michigan State as an outreach site. A former Tokyo University president was appointed as AIU president, and all students do an element of international study.

Recently, AIU competed against Tokyo University and other institutions for a grant from the Japanese Federal Government and won funding to support joint collaborative teaching projects with a number of US universities. The Akita-OSU project is the first to be developed. Many rural communities in Oregon and in Japan are suffering from similar problems: the rural community is aging as young people leave for larger cities, jobs are being lost, and links to cultural heritage are disappearing. Yoshi and John are collaborating on the development of an educational program that will bring together students from both universities to spend time in rural communities in both Oregon and in Japan to explore these issues together. John's OSU partners in the project include Kate MacTavish (who has co-taught the Communities and Natural Resources course with John for several years) and Nancy Rosenberger (an Anthropology professor who worked for many years in Japan and is fluent in Japanese). [John and Kate participated in a 10-week "Global Learning Community" class led by Larry Becker with seed money from the provost. Faculty from across campus competed for the 16 slots in this class, which focused on how to best interject

international experiences and thinking into existing educational programs at OSU. Each participant who developed a class on globalizing education and research received \$2500; John used his funding to develop this FOR 499 Special Topics class on building resilient rural communities.]

Six sophomore and junior students have been recruited at AIU, and we are starting to recruit six OSU undergraduates to participate in the program. In the second and third year the recruiting pool will broaden to all OUS students, with Paul Primak and Michele Justice heading up the recruitment. The Japanese students will arrive in January to begin winter coursework, and the OSU students will join them in spring term for Nancy's course "Japanese Culture and Society," followed by the three-module FOR 499 course taught by John and Kate. Module 1 is a literature study; module 2 is a field class, subcontracted with Wallowa Resources in Eastern Oregon, that includes meetings with rural community leaders to learn about their particular community problems; and module 3 is a debriefing and project. They will mirror the community experience in Akita Prefecture in Japan, and close with a global synthesis of what they learned in both countries. The FOR 499 course dates are June 17 to July 7 in Oregon and July 8 to August 16 in Japan. The large grant covers salaries, travel, ground transportation and lodging but not food.

(Q: Does it cover the 10 credits of coursework? A: Not sure about that at this point.)

5. Internationalizing the College (Thomas Maness) (moved agenda item up due to time limits)

Thomas said that one of his top priorities is to increase global awareness in the College of Forestry. As part of his restructuring of the Dean's Office, Thomas discussed how we can do more with the College's International Programs office, and that we have not been strategic in how we have approached previous changes to IP. He acknowledged that the current funding level is not enough and does not reflect his priorities. He asked for feedback on what the IPAC sees as biggest opportunities. Suggestions offered:

- Tap into funding sources to support international research, which is currently fractionated, faculty-led, and follows available funding.
- Potential funding sources may be from the conservation and sustainable development organizations and big international foundations.
- Add an International Programs line item to the Capital Campaign for OSU to assist with fundraising (Dennis Dykstra?).
- Pool PCMI scholarships.
- Explore ways to provide international experiences for students (service projects, PCMI, etc.). Bring six new PCMI students on board each year.
- Support Study Tours and study abroad programs, and add more.

- Expand global dimensions in coursework in more CoF courses to develop more globally literate students. Have current course instructors go through the global learning community process and revise courses.
- Promote student international experiences (such as faculty-led study tours) to industry as valuable, seek their philosophical and financial support. [Opportunity to do so at upcoming November 2nd Board of Visitors meeting at The Vue.]
- Broaden membership of Board of Visitors to include conservation community although they are usually seeking funding; currently 22 members contribute \$10,000 per year. Some of these funds could support student international experiences.
- Hire new employees with international experience.
- Develop curriculum about rural communities in developing countries, not just developed countries, so students are exposed to natural resource and poverty issues and decision-making in subsistence-level countries.
- Expand the Provost's international initiative beyond just bringing international students and their tuition money to OSU. [UBC has a broader international focus; here at OSU the PCMI program, Wood Innovation Center, and other programs can play a role.]
- Recognize international work that faculty have been doing as important, reward them in the P&T process. Currently feel underrecognized.

What's holding back International Programs?

- Lack of funding, lack of prioritization of IP by others in the College and at the University. Example: after President Obama appointed Raj Shah as USAID director and he launched the Feed the Future program, OSU could not put together a proposal because there was no support from the provost, research office, or any deans. Michigan State, Virginia Tech, Florida, and Auburn all have strong, centralized international programs and have international portfolios of \$30 – 50 million.
- Lack of communication around the College and across the University about all the international collaborations and activities. Could reinstate funding for monthly International Coffees and International Newsletter to introduce international visitors and highlight faculty international work.
- OSU disinvested in IP and it has become merely focused on attracting international student tuition dollars. CoF could step up but it would take money and time to develop international relationships, write grant proposals, etc. Need to invest money to support exploratory visits to help develop networks, develop study tours, or design collaborative education and research programs. Might take 2-3 years for investment to pay off but think

it will be worth the investment. Being involved in international work is its own reward, but it would be nice to have some FTE to support it.

Comments on restructuring:

- Some faculty have very little contact or communication with Associate Deans now, and the Dean's office is separate and so busy. How can we develop better communication?
- Also, time management is critical because you can only add so much to a full plate.
- We need a better reward system. Some people are paid 0.75 FTE but work full-time.

Thomas: Everyone seems overcommitted these days. Faculty are expected to develop research and educational programs, and administrators are expected to serve faculty. There has been funding to support administrators' travel to make connections in other countries, but we need to make it possible for young/new faculty to have these opportunities. There are two common views on how to create a highly effective organization: if the structure is right, the people will make it effective; or, if the right people are there, things will happen and connections will be made that make the organization highly effective. Demonstrating impact through international work is highly important for advancing from associate professor to professor rank. If the College convinced faculty that international activities/research/teaching are valued and rewarded, it would likely increase their involvement in them. The same goes for interdisciplinary work. Right now there seems to be an attitude of "let me get tenure first" because we don't provide as much recognition for them as we should be. We need to change this.

(Jim and Thomas left for another meeting.)

6. International visiting scholars updates (Juan Pajares, Pablo Romero, Andoni Urteaga, others) (Doug Maguire)

Andoni Urteaga is here for nine months from University of Valladolid, working on his senior thesis with Doug Maguire. Juan Pajares, an entomologist from Valladolid, was here from mid-July through mid-August to work with Darrell Ross and Rick Kelsey on various aspects of bark beetle ecology and management. He also visited with Doug Maguire during that time to discuss future exchanges with the University of Valladolid. Pablo Romero finished his one-year ARGO GLOBAL internship from the Spanish Ministry of Education, and has now started the M.S. program in Sustainable Forest Management under Doug's supervision. Ann-Laure Colin, a French biotechnology student, finished her 6-month internship on a project involving representation of genetic tree improvement in growth models. Francis Colin, Anne-Laure's father and a forest research scientist working at INRA-AgroParis Tech in Nancy, France, visited in May to give a seminar on his wood quality research and to discuss strategies for enhancing collaborative projects between INGREF and OSU. Doug is currently working with Barbara Lachenbruch and other OSU faculty members to identify opportunities to host French students and scientists under various types of internships.

7. Alternate year study tours planned and India trip (Chris Knowles, Doug Maguire)

Didn't get to discuss this. Doug Maguire has initiated discussions with Felipe Bravo about another trip for OSU students to study forest management in Spain.

8. Visiting Asian delegations (Susan Morr  and Chris Knowles) Didn't get to this either.

- a. September 20 – South Korea (Fire Science) (Susan)
- b. September 24 – Chinese Academy of Forestry (Bioenergy/Green Carbon/Wood Products) (Chris)
- c. October 5 – Taiwan Forest Research Institute administrators/scientists (Forest Certification/Agroforestry) (Susan)
- d. October 8 – South Korea (Wildlife/Forestry) (Susan)

9. Recent and upcoming IFSA activities (Will Hollamon)

James Boulger and Camille Moyers, IFSA officers, paid out of pocket to attend the annual IFSA International meeting last summer, which was held in Turkey. James is the new North American Regional Representative, and Camille is the new head of IFSA's International Exchange Committee. The 2013 annual meeting will be held in Spain, and the 2014 meeting will be in Salt Lake City. OSU IFSA officers are headed tomorrow (October 5) to meet the UBC IFSA officers and plan a the IFSA Symposium for 2014 in Salt Lake City, the same year the IUFRO will be held there. IUFRO and IFSA have an MOU. Some funding issues exist for IFSA chapters outside Europe, because IFSA International only funds European students. They are trying to make it fair for other IFSA chapters in North and South America, Africa, and Australia.

10. Other items to discuss next time:

- a. Discuss reinstating quarterly International Coffees to introduce international visiting scholars to the College of Forestry.