

**Advisory Committee
Oregon Forest Research Laboratory
October 30, 2007
Richardson Hall 313**

Committee Members Present: *Rich Wininger, Bond Starker, Gary Hartshorn, Cynthia West (vice Bov Eav), Kim Titus (vice Ed Shepard), Brent Davies, Ted Lorensen (vice Marvin Brown), Rick Brown, Hal Salwasser*

Others Present: *Jennifer Niedermeyer, Barbara Lachenbruch., Tom McLain, Steve Hobbs, Roger Admiral, Darius Adams, Tom Adams, Steve Tesch, Ed Jensen, Katherine Morris*

Hal Salwasser opened the meeting by welcoming advisory committee members and making a few introductory remarks. He then described how the Forest Research Laboratory and College fared in the last state legislative session. Support from the forest industry and family forestland owners was crucial in securing a combined increase in the FRL appropriation and harvest tax of \$1.1 million per year. While this increase does not close the budget gap originally projected at \$4 million in 2009, it does make the problem more manageable. Hal told the committee that the College will continue its strategy of continuing to seek ways to reduce expenses while increasing revenues through the capital campaign and by seeking additional funds from the Legislature. College reserve funds have bought some time to find a solution to the problem but these funds are limited and College leadership does not want to exhaust them. However, continued unfunded salary increases and substantial increases in other personnel costs (e.g., health insurance) present the College with ongoing challenges. Like other public academic institutions in the state, the College continues to experience the general effects of inadequate funding of higher education in Oregon.

Following Hal's presentation Tom McLain described the history and process used to develop the current reorganization models under consideration. All models are based on reorganizing the College from four to three academic departments which Tom described with reference to detailed materials provided committee members. It was pointed out that in addition to reducing administrative costs, College leadership intends to use reorganization as an opportunity to position the College to better meet future needs over the next 5-10 years. Following Tom's presentation, committee members entered into a general discussion about the proposed reorganization.

Hal told the committee he had briefed OFIC leadership on the reorganization and has plans to meet with leaders of the conservation community to do the same.

Rich Wininger asked how the research and service cooperatives would be assigned in the various models. Using previously prepared materials, Tom McLain explained the different configurations.

There was concern expressed by several committee members about the potential of some models to exacerbate the “greens vs browns” culture. Tom McLain responded that College leadership recognizes there are different cultures in the College and that we need to guard against creating situations that increase cultural differences. One way to help address this issue is to ensure that degree programs are taught across departmental boundaries. In other words, faculty from multiple departments will be engaged in providing the teaching support for degree programs. Rich Winger emphasized the importance of students being exposed to diverse ideas and cultures. Cynthia West concurred saying that rather than more specialists, federal agencies are going to need more generalists. She also pointed out that in the next few years there will be a surge in retirements from federal agencies.

Gary Hartshorn asked if the College is only going to examine three department models. Tom McLain said the FEC had considered the no department and two department models but had ruled them out for various reasons.

Hal brought up the point that enrollment in undergraduate forestry degree programs is declining at some west coast institutions such as the University of Washington and UC Berkeley. Enrollment in OSU College of Forestry undergraduate degree programs is either growing or stable. In fact, enrollment in College degree programs is the highest it has been in many years. He also said the College needs to be engaged in inter-institutional, regional kinds of large research and outreach programs to address complex problems. We need to collaborate more with the University of Washington, UC Berkeley (maybe UC Davis) and Washington State University.

Prior to lunch Hal updated the committee on College research and service initiatives. The **Oregon Wood Innovation Center** (OWIC) is up and running well. It is designed to help small and medium sized companies. The **Watersheds Research Cooperative** (WRC) continues to expand with the addition of the Alsea and Trask Paired Watershed Studies. The College continues to seek significant federal funding for the WRC but in the current budget environment it is difficult. The **Center for Intensive Planted-forest Silviculture** (CIPS) now has 19 members and will hold a strategic planning meeting next week. Hal also introduced Mark Harmon (Department of Forest Science) who will lead the College’s **Forest and Climate Initiative**. The working group will develop an integrated research and teaching program on climate change and the full range of issues related to climate change and forests (e.g., impact, response, adaptation, mitigation). Faculty involved in the **Forest Health and Bio-based Energy Initiative** are working to make the College of Forestry/OFRL the leading academic institution linking biomass energy production to wildland fire prevention and forest restoration.

After lunch Steve Hobbs described the schedule for completing the reorganization decision process and gaining approval from the University Administration and Faculty Senate to reorganize. Because the reorganization proposal does not reduce the number of professorial faculty or change degree programs, little opposition is anticipated. The objective is to have approval by July 1, 2008.

Introduced earlier, Mark Harmon presented the committee with an overview of the plans the Forest and Climate Working Group has for the **Forest and Climate Initiative**. This information was also provided to committee members in a handout. The teaching component of the initiative will be just as important as the research component because faculty need to provide students with the knowledge and tools necessary to deal with the problems associated with climate change. Cynthia West and Brent Davies spoke to the importance of this initiative. Committee members felt there was considerable potential for collaboration among research agencies on forests and climate change.

Following the presentation by Mark Harmon, Hal gave the committee a quick update on the new Forest Management Degree options.

Next the committee was given an overview of the Capital Campaign. It is an important part of the College's strategy to place itself on a sound financial foundation. Jennifer Niedermeyer (College Development Officer) and Hal told the committee that the College is already more than half way to the \$31.5 million goal of the campaign. The intention is to endow scholarships, fellowships, professorial faculty positions and the Dean's position. This will enable the College to reallocate state funds to expand existing programs or address emerging areas of interest important to Oregonians.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, members cycled back to the discussion of College reorganization and the **Forests and Climate Initiative**. Several members reemphasized the importance of avoiding an organizational structure that will enhance or continue the "browns vs greens" divide. Cynthia West questioned why departments were needed at all. Ted Lorensen said we need to avoid narrow perspectives and do everything we can to promote broader understanding and thinking.

On the topic of forests and climate change, Tom Adams asked what industry's interests were. Rich Wininger responded that the carbon credit market is a growing issue. Ted Lorensen reinforced the importance of this issue. Concern was also expressed about how management practices (e.g., genetics programs, silvicultural practices) should be changed to mitigate/adapt to climate change.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.