

Forest Research Laboratory Advisory Committee Meeting

April 4, 2006

Oregon State University
College of Forestry
272 Peavy Hall

Attending: Ted Lorensen representing Marvin Brown (Agency); Doug Dauost representing Linda Goodman (Agency); Cynthia West representing Bov Eav (Agency); Gary Hartshorn (Public); Russ McKinley (Industry); Matt Higgins representing Joel Nelson (Industry); Jennifer Phillippi (Industry); Barte Starker (Industry); Eric Urstadt representing Ron Stuntzner (Industry); Rich Wininger (Industry)

Absent: Bill Arsenault (Industry-Small Woodland); Dallas Stovall (Industry); Scott Schroeder (Industry); Bettina Von Hagen (Public); John Hayes (FEC); Ed Jensen (FEC); Elaine Brong (Agency)

Guests: Bill Boggess, OSU Faculty Senate; Mike Gaudern, OSWA Craig Hanneman, OFIC; Norm Johnson, CoF; Rex Storm, AOL

Chairman Russ McKinley opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing new member; Rich Wininger (Industry), Weyerhaeuser. Rich has replaced Jim James who has served one term. The other new member, Bov Eav, (Agency) PNW Station was unable to attend due to relocating to Oregon. Bov replaces Tom Quigley, who has retired.

Hal Salwasser reported that Jason Miner has moved from Oregon and a public position is open on the committee. He asks committee members to notify him with suggestions for a replacement for the public position.

The minutes of May 13, 2005 meeting were approved with the change of Craig Hanneman's affiliation to OFIC.

- **Academic Freedom – Discussion facilitated by Hal Salwasser and Norm Johnson**
Hal gave a summary of the events surrounding the *Science* paper controversy. The time frame was two months from submission to publication. Hal was notified via email two days prior to online release and after the press releases had gone out. The resulting controversy has made it difficult to focus on the technical content of the article because everyone has focused on the issue of academic freedom.

Bill Lunch (OSU Political Science) facilitated a meeting of concerned students and the group of faculty who wrote a letter to *Science*. There is now dialogue underway but positions are still held hard and fast. To one group it is about academic responsibility, rigor, and science methodology, to others it is about academic freedom, equity, and intimidation. The issue of asking for a delay of publication has been a major issue with the academic community throughout the US, and Norm Johnson notes an article also appeared in a newspaper in Shanghai, China.

Hal has had several meetings with graduate students, and has implemented an open door for them with posted office hours. Norm Johnson notes that some graduate students have relayed they do not feel welcome at the College.

Norm is leading a committee of Distinguished Professors and Endowed Chairs from the College who has been given the assignment of engaging the College in an open discussion of our core values and principles relative to academic freedom and academic responsibility. The committee includes: John Bliss, Barbara Bond, Fred Kamke, Loren Kellogg, Jeff McDonnell, Dick Waring, and Jeff Morrell. Additional members have been added to the committee to gain a greater perspective of the issue: Heidi Albers (FR), Christina Eisenberg (Grad student), Denise Lach (Sociology), and Penny Wright (FS). Norm notes it has been harder to engage faculty than the graduate students in resolving the issue.

Bill Boggess reported on the university forum which was held on issues of academic freedom. The audience and questions which followed were dominated by graduate students, many from the CoF

Rich Winger asked about the difference between academic freedom and academic responsibility.

Bill Boggess discussed the iron triangle (science, policy and money).

Cynthia West reports that Federal scientists do not have a voice on policy as do academic professionals. They must remain independent, and deal only with science. The lead PI is a PNW Station scientist and the article should have undergone a policy review by the PNW. Had that happened, any reference to legislation would have been removed. Cynthia's greatest concern is attacking the credibility of science and scientists. She would be glad to speak at seminars and to follow up with individuals or groups on this subject.

Mike Gaudern reported that landowners are concerned with how reliable publications are and what is being done for family woodland owners. The OSWA Board is questioning more funding to OSU, as the philosophy of landowners is changing. There is a separation or disconnect with landowners and forestry, Extension and OFRI. The landowners are more interested in Extension (boots on the ground), and not interested in being activists supportive of CoF. Landowners want to know what is being done to help them and they need to be shown, through Forestry Extension efforts, if they are to be more active and lobby for more money.

Doug Dauost noted the article felt like conflicting science and it may be used in litigation against the USFS in post fire salvage. The Rogue River and Siskiyou Forest Supervisor has relayed to Hal that the article is being used by environmentalists to delay a timber sale on the Rogue.

Bill Boggess feels that the letter he and the Provost wrote calmed the issue on the campus and with the *Science* journal. The tension is now within the College of Forestry.

Barte Starker's concern is the lack of communication and lack of trust between colleagues in the College. Individuals are too divided to talk to each other when instead they should take advantage of the experiences of each person, and draw from these experiences.

Russ reports that forestry agency leaders and field workers are furious that information is being misused. College relation with agencies and industry in southern Oregon is being damaged.

Jennifer Phillippi questioned the role of graduate student advisors. Norm replied that each researcher is independent with their work and relationship with students. No restrictions are placed on researchers submitting publications. Generally, peer reviewers are primarily outside the college.

Hal notes that there are at least six more studies in Southwestern Oregon, and questions how we will deal with these. Ted Lorensen notes that *Science* does not publish all articles and suggests the College look at other venues for covering topics (seminars, forum, etc.). Norm Johnson has proposed a workshop on Post-Fire Recovery at the end of the term.

Norm distributed a handout regarding Statements on Academic Freedom and Statement of Faculty Responsibilities from the OSU Faculty Handbook. Russ feels the public will make judgments on the documents, and it is important to frame words on the document with words familiar to the public and donors.

Rich Winger noted this study result does not come as a surprise to industry, and they may question the logic of funding studies with objectives which are more common sense than scientific. Hal feels this is an important issue to be conscious of with federal and state agencies.

Cynthia offered four points to consider in CoF responsibilities:

- Education of next generations of scientists, educators, policymakers
- What are responsibilities of faculty to students (i.e. mentorship)
- Look at relationships – mend or enhance relationships with internal and external constituents
- Develop a communication strategy – make a transparent – post articles in full on web page

- **College/FRL Budget** **Hal Salwasser**

The College is required to reduce the budget by \$1 million by July. The majority of the money has been taken from support units in an effort to keep the research and teaching programs strong. The Outreach office will be closed. The search for the Associate Dean of Extended Education was suspended, however, Extension released \$100,000 and the position was re-opened and is in the process of being filled.

Hal shared his budget strategies. He plans to take advantage of the resources that we have, specifically:

- State appropriations

- Harvest tax - increase the total harvest or increase the tax rate. Hal would focus the increase on the Center for Planted Forest Productivity, the Oregon Wood Innovation Center, and the Watersheds Research Cooperative.
- Shift a portion of faculty salary from state appropriated funds to research grants and contracts.
- Capital Campaign – Goal is to raise \$30 million in five years
 - Increase scholarship and fellowship for students
 - Endowments for chairs and professorships and free up appropriated dollars.
 - Endow the dean’s position (\$5 million) and free up money for retention and recruitment.
 - Establish a \$5 million Dean’s excellence fund for innovation.

If the College is not successful in these strategies, by 2010 we will have 25% less capacity for forest resource education, research and outreach than we had in 2000. There is the possibility of a \$4 million shortage if corrections are not made.

Steve Tesch notes the College of Engineering is requesting (demanding) a doubling of their faculty and a \$20 million increase from the ETEP Board. Their constituents, or stakeholder support groups, are being very supportive. Hal is also supportive of this effort if new faculties are placed in WSE, FE, Ag and other colleges on campus. Russ questioned why Forestry’s increase request seems like a special interest issue, but Engineering’s seems to be an economic development opportunity for Oregon.

Russ suggested that other companies might have surplus land to donate to CoF, as was the case with the Boise land donation, which was earmarked for wildlife ecology.

Rex Storm suggested the need to look at demographics and forestry sector retirements and determine if CoF will have graduates for these positions. Rex has the ability to pull demographics for consulting foresters and forestry survey organizations.

Tom McLain reported that all recent WSE graduates are employed and employers would like more, he feels this may be more of a recruitment issue.

Rich Winger notes Weyerhaeuser Company will lose many employees to retirements in the next few years. He encourages a projection of industry retirements and number of students required to fill the work force, as well as the type of labor force necessary.

Cynthia notes the PNW has also reduced positions and eliminated searches. Doug relayed that the USFS has undertaken organizational studies for disciplines to indicate which positions to fill. The studies show trends for increasing employment. He has also noticed Washington foresters bringing in legislators for support.

Russ encourages FRL Advisory Committee members to be supportive and decide what they want from the University and how to get it. He also asks that they let their organizations understand the importance of funding the College by: increasing endowments, increasing donations of land, and College-wide funding by land tax and harvest tax.

Craig Hanneman and Rich Winger hope to obtain support from industry. Ted Lorensen feels it is important to maintain an opportunity for public interest in forestry

and forest lands. ODF has lost capacity to provide research through attrition and funding for employees.

• **Centennial Celebration** **Hal Salwasser, Steve Hobbs**

The Centennial Committee is working on the following projects and events:

- Organize a special alumni reception at the SAF National Convention in 2007, Portland, Oregon.
- Organize special Centennial displays.
- Develop a feature article for the *Forest History Journal* or *Journal of Forestry*.
- Prepare and deliver public presentations incorporating Centennial theme.
- Develop a list of potential guest speakers for CoF classes and student organizations.
- Develop, produce and distribute a DVD on CoF history incorporating the history of forestry in Oregon as appropriate.
- The College of Forestry History will be placed on a Web Page.
- Develop and market commemorative pavers for Richardson Hall's Hatfield Courtyard.
- Coordinate CoF Centennial with Oregon Forest Resources Institute activities and publications.
- Open House for OSU showcasing CoF history and current programs.
- A new logo has been designed for the Centennial.
- Ken Brauner has been commissioned to create a painting for the celebration

Matt Higgins suggested show and tell tours on the forest and in the College.

Russ asked for input on a fund raising possibility. He suggests a campaign to contact alums who received scholarships and ask them to return the investment. Committee members concur that this would be a good opportunity to tie into the Centennial celebration. Alums might also be interested in purchasing pavers.

Hal gave a brief recap of the meeting. The College needs to put the “*Science* issue” to rest and move on. He will discuss the budget strategy with others to determine whether to downsize or streamline.

Committee members were given a copy of the newly produced CoF recruitment DVD. They were asked to give it to high school teachers, students or parents. Additional copies may be obtained by contacting Hal or Debbie Bird McCubbin.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted

Tresa Stevens