In attendance:

Advisory Board Members: Gary Hartshorn, Dave Ivanoff, Rosemary Mannix (for Marvin Brown), Catherine Mater, Lee Miller, Hal Salwasser, Barte Starker, John Laurence (for Bov Eav), Jennifer Phillipi, Ed Shepard, Carol Whipple, Rich Wininger

Members absent: Rick Brown, Jerri Brodie, Ray Jones, Mary Wagner

Ex officio members present: Linc Cannon (for Ray Wilkeson), Ken Faulk (for David Ford)

College of Forestry (CoF) Executive Committee: Roger Admiral, Eric Hansen, Jim Johnson, Thomas Maness, Brenda McComb, Tom McLain, Steve Tesch

OSU Foundation staff present: Zak Hansen, CoF Development Officer

Presenters: Mike Bondi, Rick Fletcher, Nicole Strong, Brad Withrow Robinson

I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Catherine Mater

Chair Mater called the meeting to order at 9:30 am with a welcome. Self introduction of participants followed.

II. OSU, Earth Systems Science Division, and COF Strategic Alignment Update – Hal Salwasser

Hal updated the Advisory Board with all the activities and news that were happening at OSU and in the College of Forestry.

1) College of Forestry Enrollments Status
There is a high demand for most of the forestry degrees except for the Wood and Science Technology degree. WSE is planning to re-invigorate their degree program. The current budget has challenged the College’s ability to accommodate the enrollment growth for other well subscribed degree programs.

2) Pro-School and Cooperative Education Program Proposal Update
FERM Department Head Thomas Maness is developing a proposal for a professional school that will have the outcome of increasing the quality of students in the upper division, attracting more non-resident students, and giving the College the ability to manage the number of students that will be put through the various programs. The
employers’ demand has remained quite strong.

3) **Change in Promoting Student Diversity**

   The College initiated some changes to attract a more diverse student body. The College benefited enormously from a grant from BLM and from the Forest Service to establish a program called SEEDS. The College put lots of efforts in the past with some assistance from Weyerhaeuser in trying to attract more Hispanic students to come to OSU.

4) **ESS Division and Budget Update**

   At the last meeting, Hal gave an update on the strategic alignment and budget reduction process that the University had underway. The University had just formed divisions. The College has been charged by the President, under the leadership of the Provost, to reduce its planned expenditures in line with real reduction in state appropriations and some anticipated reductions. The College did a very conservative budget planning process at the end of the legislative session in the summer through fall and met all the budget reduction targets. The College was prepared to take more reductions as it did not know in the fall the results of the ballot measure on the tax issues. The College assumed the worst case scenario for revenues coming from tuition and planned for the contingency that the legislature might come back into session and knock another 10 percent out of the budget. The Faculty Senate voted in the fall to implement a furlough program. The unionized employees had already negotiated a contract that had them taking a furlough day every month. For equity and for budget reasons, the faculty also signed up. This resulted in a saving of a couple million dollars. There was a salary freeze in place for the last couple years that will continue for another year. The furlough program will end in July 1.

   The Colleges have been asked by the legislative leaders to plan for a scenario that would have a 25% reduction in the next biennial budget. The state has anticipated a gap between their projected revenues and current service level expenses. This will not impact funding for education as much as it will impact the Forest Research Lab. The reason for that is that the legislature has signaled that whatever cuts it might be imposing on the University System for the education and general budget, it will allow tuition increases to offset those cuts. The University is anticipating an increase of tuition of 9% per year for the upcoming biennial which would push the tuition rate of $7000 per year. There are some colleges in the University who have differential tuition.

   Over a year ago the University went through a process to take the strategic plan to phase II. The University identified three signature areas and added a 4th area, core education, which led to the division approach last fall. Discussions were set in motion in mid November and received a timeline of March 15 to turn in some proposals to a Strategic Alignment & Budget Reduction Committee that was to provide counsel to the Provost on what to do with the proposals that were submitted. The expectation was to do some coordination across campus within each division. The Strategic Alignment Budget Reduction Committee sent responses back to divisions and colleges for adjustments. These are currently posted on the OSU website.

   Hal described the major proposals from the ESS Division and talked about the changes going on in the three Colleges.
5) **Faculty Investment Initiative**
Because of the positive out of state and international cash flows the university will create a faculty investment initiative – this is a proposal that gives each division the financial support to retain the best faculty and hire new faculty. The search process will start this summer. This will be the first incentive to drive the alignment process.

6) **CoF Degree Program Changes**
The College is currently restructuring its Forest Resources and the Forest Science graduate degrees and sorting through how to smooth the transition of the prior department reconfiguration. The FERM faculty is proposing to create a single graduate degree in Sustainable Forest Management with several tracks. The FES Department is also working on developing a proposal for a rebranding their graduate degree. A new Faculty of Forest Management that will be engaged in delivering the revised undergraduate degree program has been created. Faculty from both FERM and FES Departments are engaged.

7) **Major Federal Grants Updates**
There is a major bump-up in competitive federal grants that will drive the research focus of this university and all Land Grant Universities. These are large, long term interdisciplinary, multi-institutional, multi-national grants:
- NSF grant pre-proposal for a new Environment Synthesis Center
- USDI proposal for a Regional Climate Center
- NSF proposal for equipment grant – CoF will provide a partial match
- Agricultural and Food Initiative (AFRI grants)
These grants have an explicit expectation for outreach/extension.

8) **INTO Programs and Natural Resources**
The INTO program is bringing international students to a 1 year preparatory curriculum to get them ready to become freshmen. The first batch is all business and engineering students. Chris Bell, INTO leader, will be developing the proposal to bring natural resources students to the pathway. International programs bring large amount of revenue to OSU. This will put CoF in a unique place in the NW to have NR as an international program.

9) **OSU Foundation Update**
Jennifer Niedermyer has left OSU Foundation. For the time being, Zak Hansen is the Interim COF Development Officer.

**Feedback from FRLAC**

*Catherine Mater – Who is engaged in the Environmental Synthesis Center pre-proposal? Is there an opportunity to engage Middle East partners?*

*Gary Hartshorn – Question about the SABBRC Committee, its composition and diversity.*

*Catherine Mater – Question about the relationship and working platform with CAS Dean.*
III.  Transforming Wood Science & Technology (WST) – Thomas McLain

The WSE undergraduate degree will be renamed “Renewable Materials”. The implementation of the new degree program is scheduled for Fall 2010. Tom presented the process for identifying students’ motivation done by focus groups and shared the study results and student reactions to potential majors. Copies of the two-page summary were distributed at the meeting.

Feedback from FRLAC

Dave Ivanoff - Comment about the enrollment declining and restoring the profession of forestry: Need stronger advocacy for the management of our public lands to encourage the profession. The use of our natural resources is to make products for our society and this messaging is not in front of the public like it was once and that could turn around to bring more people to production forestry and the manufacturing of wood products. “Everywhere I go I am trying to influence public policy around timber supply and I focus on the renewability of the resource and solutions. It needs to be more than just the industry who is pushing that message to the public and OFRI does a great job. A stronger message from the academics really carries a lot of weight with the public and they help facilitate stronger enrollment and programs to move forward.”

IV.  Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program – Jim Johnson

Featuring the College of Forestry Extension Programs at OSU to present the breadth of this program

Jim introduced the four marquis programs of the College of Forestry Extension and the people responsible for them:

- **Tree School – Mike Bondi, Clackamas County**
  Tree School is a one-day educational program for land-owners offered around the state in various locations. Participants attend to learn, build skills, and network. Tree School is also a showcase for OSU Extension. A one-page information sheet about Tree School was distributed at the meeting.

  *Ken Faulk – Ken thanked Mike for the great job he does with the coordination of these big events.*

- **Ties to the Land Program – Brad Withrow-Robinson, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties**
  Ties to the Land is a succession planning education program for family forest landowners. This is huge collaborative project in Oregon and nationwide. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed at the meeting.

  *Zak Hansen - Marketing question about Ties to the Land website and whether or not any marketing has been done to reach attorneys, financial planners, and accountants so that they can potentially send people to attend this program. Zack was concerned that this program is not visible enough.*
Jim Johnson – Question about the relationship/difference between the Ties curriculum and the traditional family estate planning.

Steve Tesch – What is the plan to track the success of this new program?

- Women Owning Woodlands Net – Nicole Strong, Deschutes County
Women Owning Woodlands Network was formed to recognize the growing number of woman taking a wide array of active woodland management roles, raise basic forestry and decision-making skills through hands-on activities, and support and increase women’s access to forestry related information and encouraging communication through state and local networks. Nicole went over the need assessment results for this program. Presentation included program goals, what has been done, described local groups, recruitment and reasons for why women are coming to this group, program assessment and the future of the program.

Rich Winingier – Question about the location of where the program is offered and whether it will expand to eastern Oregon.

Jim Johnson – Wanted to know what the two key things Nicole learned through the project.

- Master Woodland Managers Program – Rick Fletcher, Benton and Linn Counties
The MWM are owner-managers of forestland who want to expand their knowledge and forest management skills and want to contribute to the greater forestry community. MWM volunteers provide technical assistance, referrals, and learning opportunities. Rick presented the current state of the program, leadership, organization. The MWM plays a vital link in complementing Extension’s task of providing forestry related information, taking it into local neighborhoods throughout the state, thus enabling Woodland owners to better manage their forests and exemplify stewardship to the general public. The program brochure was distributed at the meeting.

Hal Salvasser – Comments about the Impact of MWM on generating leaders engaged in the Forestry Community.

Catherine Mater – “About two years ago, I was in Geneva for a United Nations presentation, the OSU Forestry Extension Ties to the Land and
Master Woodland Managers were specifically referenced in other countries’ presentations about next generations’ issue.”

V. **Cooperative Education Program Scoping Update – Thomas Maness**

The presentation included an update on: 1) the scoping of a cooperative education program, issues that led to the idea, challenges that the College faces, and the strategy for moving ahead; 2) The idea of a Faculty of Forest Management structure that would allow all the faculty who teach in the Forest Management program to be involved in approving curriculum changes; and 3) the shifting of the Forest Management program to a pre/pro-school.

**Action Item:**
We will come back at the next meeting to talk about the stage of progress.

**Feedback from FRLAC**

Rich Wininger – Concern about at what point students need to decide whether they will be going to the private or public sector during the coop program.

Caro Whipple – Questions about students’ demographic and education pathway change from traditional a four year college.

Catherine Mater – Question about community college students who transfer to OSU and the time it takes for them to graduate. The College of Engineering works very closely with community colleges and all classes are transferable to be able to get into pro-school level within the College of Engineering."

Lee Miller – Question about grades GPA limitation for screening students.

Ed Shepard – Is there any cross over in the program curriculum for 3rd and 4th year?

Hal asked Rosemary Mannix and Ed Shepard for their immediate feedback about whether the conservation track that Thomas presented is lined up with the sort of employees they are looking for. Both were in favor of mixing conservation and operations tracks.

Hal mentioned that a new sustainability double degree will be offered and can be added to other majors.

Tom McLain – Will there be some challenges to find enough employers for students’ placement?

Gary Hartshorn – Giving the earlier comment that a number of courses offered will be reduced, would the number of electives be also reduced?

Dave Ivanoff – Concerned about the use of conservation approach and developing a career path that is geared toward a conservation perspective. Concerned about the tension that may develop within this program for the two disciplines.” It seems to me like the more traditional integrated approach would be more in line with the mission.”
VI. **Report on Biomass in Oregon – Catherine Mater, Senior Fellow for Pinchot National Forest**

In 2006 the US Forest Service Woody Biomass Utilization Team released a national strategy plan incorporating CROP (coordinated resource offering protocol) as a tool for reaching fuel-load reduction goals, improving the health of the public forest systems through sustainable biomass removal, and inviting investment back into the forest-based community. Catherine gave an update on what is currently going on across the United States on biomass utilization and in what she has learned through an example of the CROP landscape pilot project that is conducted in SW Washington (Vernonia) where OSU is playing a transformative role that will become the new model for sustainable living in rural American and forest based communities. The results of the CROP evaluations of various states are available at [www.crop.usa](http://www.crop.usa). Catherine did a computer demonstration on how to navigate through the site and access the data.

*Hal - How would we use this case study in our teaching. Is our Rural Studies Institute involved in this? Hal and Catherine to discuss further to identify other OSU COF faculty who need to be engaged.* Hal wants to learn more about the Vernonia work and how OSU might use it in teaching, research and outreach on the essential convergence of all signature areas when addressing sustainability of a region and its embedded communities.

VII. **Capital Campaign Update - Zak Hansen**

Zak gave a brief update on the Capital Campaign and future plan. The current goal is $31.5 million that we expect to meet by the end of June. The campaign will likely be extended with our goal increased by $15 million. The focus of the three year extension will likely be on faculty support. We are proposing to add three chairs, name the Dean’s position, increase the scholarship and fellowship endowments, and fill out the endowed fund for innovation and access. We have been working on getting some equipment for the Student Logging Training program, successfully raised funds and support to refurbish a used yadder, and signed an agreement with Pape and John Deere for a new skidder.

VIII. **Positioning the FRL for New Realities - Hal Salwasser/FRLAC**

Hal wrapped-up the meeting by summarizing where things are headed looking at the future. The main issue will be to figure out how to sustain the production of goods and services that people need in a way that keeps the ecosystems of this planet functioning in a healthy way. The reason for the College program changes will be to sharpen up our ability to educate students and to be able to deal with today’s realities.

Our programs going forward will include a very high capacity to deliver the core professional programs that have historically been needed by agencies, industries, and conservation organizations but they will be continually retooled to be aligned with the changes in the environment, market place, and public attitudes. We are going to see a decline in state support unless Oregon can do something about tax reform. Federal competitive grants and private giving
will become our most promising sources of revenue that we will have. We will do our best to maintain the strength of our research cooperatives and educate the public about forest related issues by sponsoring conferences, often in partnership with agencies and others. We will continue to be a strong partner with OFRI. While we are challenged by the budget situation, there is a lot of great and transformative work going on in the College and at the University.

Hal asked members to provide their final comments and thoughts on our programs:

Jennifer Phillipi – Wanted to know what will be some federal opportunities and upcoming investment since the College will have to rely less on state funding? Really liked the idea of a cooperative education program.

Hal – For the reminder of the Obama administration, we are going to see a major investment in R&D around reducing our dependence upon foreign sources of fossil carbon and shifting toward more renewable kinds of sources of energy, creating jobs that are affiliated with sustainability or the green movement. The College is supporting teams of faculty to submit proposals for these very large, long term interdisciplinary competitive grants that integrate the biological, physical, and social sciences. We intend to be successful in several of those.

Rick Brown – What I appreciated is that while there is still all that grimness of the realities of the budget and so forth, I really appreciated that creativity that is coming out of the presentations. Wanted to thank Jim for bringing the Extension presenters, the substance and their energy were great and encouraging. There seems to be a lot of positive things to focus on.

Linc Cannon – OSU CoF has a rigorous hands-on forestry program. Try not to lose that in the process of change. Concerned with diminishing Forest economics capacity at OSU COF with so many great forest economists leaving. I like what I am hearing today. What I see today is renewable, sustainable, and green. The real opportunities for the industry are green building, biomass, biofuels, and climate change benefits, Corrim research. CoF is on the right track, especially the WSE renewable materials program.

Rosemary Mannix – Strategic realignment was very interesting and many of us are going through similar exercises. I really appreciated the thinking associated with the shift. We might think on how we might be able to use the intern program of the coop education. Sounds pretty exciting!

Gary Hartshorn – Gary has been coming to these semi-annual meetings for 4-5 years and this was an outstanding and very substantive program. The Extension snapshot presentations were very useful. Thank you Jim for putting this program package together. Tom and Thomas’ efforts on realignment and reinvention are very daunting and interesting. Clearly needs to happen. How you are going to do it is the real challenge – doing different with less! Good luck.

Carol Whipple – Wanted to echo Rick’s comments about the energy from the presentations. It takes people very dedicated to go through this realignment. Appreciated the dedication and passion that this program has featured. Huge fan of Extension Service. Concern about the current active anti extension and outreach messages. Strange world to be in – proud to be a Beaver!
Ken Faulk – Listening to the changes, updates, and curriculum, thought back about 40 years ago when I was in the school of forestry and the education we got then. There was a good turnout of good foresters. When thinking about my classmates, some went to a career other than forestry. They were able to do that because of a well-rounded education. Turnout the best foresters you can but remember that you are educating young people to go on with life. The reason that the land grant university was created was to be able to have education and research that would reach the farmers and tree farmers on the ground. It was Extension that was the conduit for that. I have a daughter who will own forest land and we count on Extension to help her.

Lee Miller – Stand up for what we do out there. Good update on Extension programs, valuable tools. Regarding the changes in the curriculum and pre and pro school, Lee felt that he would not have made it through this program so he cautioned to not go to grades only. Don’t drop people out who can walk through the wood and do the work. Regarding the Vernonia biomass project sounds really great, why aren’t we doing it at OSU?

Barte Starker – appreciated CoF efforts, great program. Best program we had by far. Don’t forget about soils. Continue to affect people who have the passion for it. The asset that we are dealing with is multi-generational. Forestry is critical. We have to deal with the next generation of women.

Dave Ivanoff – appreciated the opportunity to be here. Need to continue to influence people with passion for forestry. OSU College of Forestry has been a preeminent university producing people who know how to practice production forestry. There is no faculty better equipped to showcase the profession of forestry to the policy makers in the state. They have the most credibility. In terms of trying to promote the school of Forestry, encourage folks to get out and pound our chest about the good work that is being done here.

Ed Shepard - Very good meeting and a great program. I always wonder how we are going to survive in the forestry profession. I am feeling good. I think Hal you have done a great job with your leadership and how you addressed the budget situation. Regarding Tom’s presentation, there is a lot of discussion on how we communicate with young people. I took notes to help us with changes with our terminology. Appreciated hearing about the Extension programs. Regarding the concept that Thomas presented, I would like to see how things progress. Loved Catherine’s energy in her biomass presentation.

We will hear from Brenda at the next FRL AC. Wrapping comments from Hal, meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Nathalie Gitt and revised by Steve Tesch