



# School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

College of the Environment

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January 3, 2012

RE: Serving on an *ad hoc* Committee: Alternative and Emerging Instructional Approaches

To: Dean Glawe (Chair), Graham Allan, Bruce Bare, Renata Bura, David Campbell, Jim Fridley, Jerry Franklin, Rob Harrison, Kevin Hodgson, Matt McLaughlin, and Sarah Reichard

You have been identified as faculty and staff who already use or are interested in using alternative and emerging instructional technologies. I would greatly appreciate your service on an *ad hoc* committee addressing alternative and emerging instructional approaches. I realize that this is a very large committee, but I am hoping via meetings and the use of email and other web resources that the task outlined below can be accomplished.

As a result of the September 2011 all School strategic planning retreat, a task was identified and was entitled 'Complete an Assessment of Instructional Delivery Methods that could increase SFR (SEFS)'s efficiency, enrollments, and SCH, and resolve bottlenecks, while at the same time ensuring quality.' Under this title a more insightful description is provided and it reads: "Identify the full suite of options available today, including those used both in the School and other CoEnv units. Consider both technological options and options that employ non-traditional instructors and non-traditional approaches. Provide best practices associated with each option. Consider whether on-line degree/course options are feasible for SEFS. Review the structure and functioning of the Western Governor's University."

After some preliminary discussion, I would suggest the following guidelines.

Goals:

1. To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our instruction;
2. To create opportunities for better cross-institutional instruction, *i.e.*, among units of CoEnv and between UW-SEFS and community colleges;
3. To potentially serve professional and global audiences;
4. To increase student learning, access, and retention of important information.

Some useful information to gather or consider in addressing these goals might include:

1. What are we already doing, what has been successful, and what has not?
2. What opportunities for innovative, emerging instructional techniques/approaches exist on and off-campus that might be considered/utilized by faculty in SEFS? Benchmarking might be an approach to this.
3. What are some of the emerging pedagogies and technologies that we might consider?



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4. What are some of the barriers (institutional, individual, group) to adopting some of these practices?
5. What people and resources exist to help us accomplish identified objectives?

Please feel free to add, drop, and clarify the above. I would like brief updates as your work proceeds, and would greatly appreciate a preliminary report by the end of spring quarter. The audience for your report should be SEFS faculty and our Strategic Planning Committee.

Thank you for your service on this important endeavor.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas M. Hinckley  
Interim Director of the School of Forest Resources  
David RM Scott Professor of Forestry