

# Visiting Committee Meeting

Meeting of April 24, 2003

The following Committee members were in attendance: Brian Boyle, Bob Alverts, Dana Rasmussen, Dale Cole, Robert McLachlan, Roger Hoesterey and Tom Quigley. Also in attendance were CFR faculty Dean Bruce Bare, Bob Edmonds, Jim Fridley, Gerard Schreuder, Rick Gustafson, Jim Agee, and Linda Brubaker, and staff John Calhoun, Adam Nance, Cara Mathison, and Sally Morgan.

Chairman Brian Boyle opened the meeting with introductions. He then reviewed the agenda, noting the strides that have been made during the past year under the leadership of Bruce Bare.

It was moved, seconded and affirmatively voted to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

## **I. Overview of College Issues (Dean Bruce Bare)**

Dean Bare introduced two new members of the College's Development Team, Cara Mathison and Adam Nance. Adam has been working in the Dean's office and earlier, was Linda Kaye's assistant, and is the new Assistant Director of Development – Programs. Cara recently moved back to the Seattle area from Wyoming Public Radio, and has a strong background in development. She is Assistant Director of Development -- Constituents.

Bruce reported that the University president search committee has received about 200 applications or nominations. By June, the names of the top five candidates will be forwarded to the regents for consideration. It may be possible to have a new president in place by fall.

The University budget picture does not look hopeful. Based on the current Senate proposal, the University will have a \$20 million deficit for the coming biennium, which would mean a 5% reduction to the units. While 5% may not seem like a great deal, when faculty salaries and required overhead are accounted for, there is very little flexibility to take the cuts.

He then reviewed the mission, vision and goals of the College, crediting the Advisory Committee for their role in helping focus attention on those things most essential to moving the College forward. Most important has been the transformation of the curriculum. Not only is that essential for the College to retain its place within the University, but as noted by Committee Member Alverts, it is essential to retain the quality and interest of students.

A discussion followed. Tom Quigley noted that it would be useful to have budgetary information distributed in advance of the meeting, so that they could have more of an opportunity to discuss possible cost-savings to the college. Some discussion revolved around the need to reward "positive behavior" by faculty.

## **II. Curriculum issues (Professors Linda Brubaker, Jim Fridley, Jim Agee)**

Linda Brubaker, as chair of the committee appointed by the Dean, described the curriculum transformation process, dating back to the mid-90s. She also discussed the status of the proposed undergraduate curriculum, as approved by the faculty. There will be two programs: Paper science and engineering and Environmental Science and Resource Management. Paper Science would be integrated as much as possible, given its specificity. Within Environmental Science and Resource Management, there would be a number of areas of specialization, but all students would be required to take four core courses, integrating the various aspects of forestry, horticulture, and natural resource science and management and using a team-taught, problem-solving approach to learning.

Jim Fridley talked about implementation of the curriculum. Noting that many faculty with a broad range of interests and expertise had worked on this, he said that there are many very pragmatic, practical details to be worked out, such as scheduling and advising. The immediate challenge is to design the content of the core courses. The University timetable for approval requires the initial draft to be submitted by May 5.

There was a Committee discussion of the curriculum. Points of note included the value of coursework and terminology traditionally associated with forestry, and the need for flexibility over a career. Even with increasing interest in other areas, such as urban forestry, it will be important to maintain the level of technical skills UW CFR has provided in the past.

Jim Agee reviewed the masters and PhD programs. Two facets are accreditation and certification. The professional masters program will meet SAF accreditation standards. The reorganized undergraduate program will not, but will meet the civil service certification level.

Further discussion focused on the implications of the revisions. Marketing will be a key in helping students and constituencies understand the curricula changes. Professor Brubaker noted that traditionally there has been a very broad range of acceptable topics for Ph.D.s and that will certainly remain the same. Tom Quigley noted that with the PNW's heavy reliance on UW and OSU, he is pleased to see how the graduate programs will complement their needs.

### **III. Development Campaign**

Over lunch, the discussion centered on the development campaign underway throughout the University. Increasingly, public universities rely on private funding to support themselves. This is important enough that the administration is increasing funding for people who work in fundraising (which is why CFR has new staff in development). Deans are being encouraged to focus much more time on this aspect of their jobs. Dean Bare called the attention of the Advisory Committee members to a letter included with their information packets. It is an invitation to join the Volunteer Campaign Committee that is being set up separate from the Advisory Committee. He is looking for at least two leaders, one from the forest products sector and one from the horticultural sector. Bob McLachlan has agreed to serve as the interim leader.

### **IV. Pack Forest (Professor Bob Edmonds and ONRC Director John Calhoun)**

Professor Edmonds reviewed the 80-year history of the Forest with the College, but noted that the new curriculum doesn't currently have a Pack Forest component. The faculty don't use the facility much for teaching or research, preferring sites that are more convenient to campus, although many graduate students have on-going projects there. With budget constraints and under-utilization of the Forest and the retirement of Stan Humann after many years of administering Pack Forest, it seems a reasonable time to examine its role and purposes.

Dale Cole observed that the Pack Forest expansion was originally undertaken to generate funds for the support of the college.

John Calhoun, who manages the Olympic Natural Resources Center, was brought in by Dean Bare to examine the workings and administration of Pack. John reported that the Forest actually has a great deal of cash. At present, the timber income is subsidizing the conference center and other activities in the college. However, the desire is to maximize efficiencies. The Dean is considering two alternatives for funds realized from timber sales and four alternatives regarding the operation of the conference center. Decisions will be made and implemented over the next year. We expect to bring a further report to the Visiting Committee at its next meeting, discuss these alternatives and ask Committee advice.

#### **V. Advanced Technology Initiative (Professors Rick Gustafson, Gerard Schreuder, Jim Fridley)**

The legislatively funded ATI established the Precision Forestry Cooperative, which has been under the interim directorship of Gerard Schreuder for the past 3 years. Rick Gustafson, chair of the Management and Engineering Division, followed up on his earlier report to the Committee on ATI progress. He stated that they are still trying to get the University administration to authorize hiring a permanent director. At a recent meeting with Vice-Provost Craig Hogan they were urged to consider a joint appointment with another unit on campus. They have made some inquiries, with good response, to Earth and Space Sciences and Civil and Environmental Engineering. The funding is available for the position and a second position is possible after the director is hired. Precision Forestry also enjoys support from USGS (USGS employees with faculty appointments). Precision Forestry is moving to greater emphasis on remote sensing, and geospatial analysis in accordance with the previous conversation with the Visiting Committee. There is significant synergy between ATI and the PNW Regional Collaboratory, as will be discussed.

#### **V. Pacific Northwest Regional Collaboratory (Professor Jim Fridley)**

The Pacific Northwest Regional Collaboratory is a NASA-funded, broad-based, interdisciplinary research program under the administration of Battelle Northwest. The money (\$1.9 million) flows through Raytheon Company, through a Congressional earmark of NASA funds. The goal is to involve numerous universities, tribes, industries, and government agencies in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon to address the needs of resource managers and decision makers in the Pacific Northwest on water resources management, integrated natural resources management, and a regional sustainability assessment, using NASA Earth Sciences technologies. CFR is the lead at UW, and about \$300,000 is allocated to UW for 2003 projects of the Collaboratory. One project will integrate ATI technologies with those of NASA, for forest watershed management.

#### **V. Further Discussion**

The meeting closed with a discussion of the role of the Visiting Committee and when the next meeting might be. The Dean observed that Committee input is valuable on general policies and he would like to consult on specific decisions as needed. Frequency of meetings was discussed, and members expressed sentiment for more specific involvement and for better information prior to meetings.