

Visiting Committee Meeting

November 14th, 2003

Meeting Minutes

The Committee convened at 2:00 PM. The following Committee members were in attendance: Brian Boyle, Bob Alverts, Dale Cole, Roger Hoesterey, Jim Anderson, Phil Woolwine and Curt Smitch. Cassie Phillips of Weyerhaeuser Company, chair of the College capital campaign, joined the meeting as co-chair. Also in attendance were CFR Dean Bruce Bare and UW staff members Alice Kaderlan-Halsey, Tom Mentele, Cecilia Paul, Sally Morgan, Cara Mathison and Adam Nance.

I. Welcome from Brian Boyle and Bruce Bar

Brian Boyle called the meeting to order. He introduced Cassie Phillips, a Vice-President of Weyerhaeuser who has agreed to serve as chair of the Volunteer Committee for the College of Forest Resources during the University-wide Capital Campaign. He also introduced Alice Kaderlan-Halsey, a former reporter for the Seattle Weekly and NPR, who is working with University Development to help units present their cases for the campaign.

Dean Bruce Bare took the floor, welcoming the members of the Visiting Committee and the Volunteer Committee. He noted that this is the first time that the two groups have met together, but said that this would be the standard arrangement for the duration of the Capital Campaign. He called to attention the Visiting Committee Mission Statement that describes the members of the committee as ambassadors of the College, stating that the Visiting Committee can be the eyes, ears and also the voice of the College out in the larger world. This is a tremendously important role and one that he is grateful that the members are willing to perform.

II. Where CFR is After Two Years—Bruce Bare

The CFR leadership has been focused on examining and reorganizing curriculum. The new curriculum is designed in part to attract students by being very flexible. Seven undergraduate curricula have been consolidated into two: Environmental Science and Resource Management (ESRM) and Paper Science and Engineering (PSE). The ESRM degree allows for flexibility electives, includes an integrated core of ecological, social, economic and measurement subjects, and includes pathways to promote specialization. The new curriculum also better accommodates community college transfer students as well as UW pre-major students. Students currently enrolled in existing majors will be allowed to complete those majors. CFR graduate programs will offer professional masters programs in forestry, urban horticulture and others to provide in-depth technical knowledge.

The new integrated undergraduate curriculum retains and improves our historic strengths in forestry and horticulture, improves integration, access and efficiency, provides opportunity to obtain both an MFR and a BSF in five years, focuses specialization at the graduate-level, and fosters an interdisciplinary team approach to natural resource education.

A wide ranging discussion followed. Points of concern expressed by members of the Committee included progress on the cultural problems earlier noted in the Charting Directions Committee report, College utilization of resources such as Pack Forest, and the role of natural resource education at the University. The common thread is the long-term viability of the College. Dean Bare said that progress is being made, although it sometimes seems slow. 90% of the faculty participated in the initial decision to consolidate the curriculum, for example. He pointed to the authorization to proceed with two director searches (for the Center for Urban Horticulture and the Precision Forestry Initiative) as demonstrating the long-term commitment of the University to the College.

III. Capital Campaign and Purposes of Our Joint Discussion—Cassie Phillips

Cassie stated that the College of Forest Resources sits in the middle of the world's greatest forest laboratory. We have access to an exceptional variety of landscapes as well as the social, cultural and environmental challenges being faced all over the world. Forestry worldwide is going through a time of enormous and very exciting changes including the retooling of mills and the application of new technologies to diverse challenges. We should be excited by the opportunities presented to us by these changes. Forestry schools might be closing in other locations, but natural resource schools and environmental schools do not have the same strengths that our college offers.

She continued that the capital campaign is about money, but more important, it's about people. It's about young and talented students excited to work in natural resource fields; it's about us being prepared to offer these students world-class opportunities in natural resource fields; and it's about us working to increase the diversity of forestry and forestry professionals in terms not only of gender and color, but also of worldview.

IV. Campaign messaging—Alice Kaderlan-Halsey & Tom Mentele

The University is almost halfway through an eight year campaign that is scheduled to become public in October 2004. They asked for Committee help in refining the concept paper. A wide-ranging discussion followed where the group hammered out some of the basics of an eventual concept paper and directed it to the staff for its work.

As a final issue, Bruce Bare drew the group's attention to the two position descriptions, encouraged all to read and possibly consider candidates who might be proposed. He also commented again how pleased he was that the University had authorized the position hirings.

Adjournment was at 4:30 PM.