



Forestry Executive Committee

Notes

June 13, 2019

**written updates only*

Dear Forestry Executive Committee,

While we canceled today's meeting, I did want to take a moment as we close out the 2018-19 academic year to reflect on some of our accomplishments and set the stage for what's next.

In FY20, we will continue to work towards our three goals. As you think towards your individual and unit workplans, please consider the strategies and metrics you can apply within these to achieve meaningful progress.

- **Goal 1: Provide an environment in which students thrive.** *College of Forestry students come from all backgrounds, beliefs, and interests and are able to build on curiosity around, and respect for, our natural and managed lands as they chart unique and shared pathways towards degree completion and a meaningful life in an inclusive and supporting academic environment.*
- **Goal 2: Operate as an ecosystem that fosters faculty and staff advancement.** *Our College community is respectful, supportive, deliberate, and progressive. We are broadening traditional silos of research, teaching, and outreach to ensure all members of our community identify with the delivery of our mission.*
- **Goal 3: Maintain academic and program units that are operationally healthy in their organization, financial support, and staffing.** *The College of Forestry is able to invest in key initiatives and promote work across traditional disciplinary and operational boundaries to advance the science of forestry through transparent and stringent budget and policy administration and a commitment to sound and inclusive governance.*

Setting goals and objectives and making progress towards them provides us with a way to focus on inclusive excellence – a cornerstone of the University's new strategic plan – and make meaningful shifts in how we deliver programs and operate in general to grow our impact and enhance our life:work balance.

In FY20, we pass some vital and exciting landmarks that reflect on the hard work and dedication of many members of our community over the past years. Specifically, we can expect to see candidates for the [Cheryl Ramberg-Ford and Allyn C. Ford Dean of the College of Forestry](#) interview in October. The Dean will be coming into an inspiring new Peavy Hall, which will have classes in Spring of 2020. Together with the recently opened "Red" Emerson lab, our College will have some of the most inspiring and innovative buildings on campus that actively reflect our teaching, research, and outreach mission.

This activity is reflected as we move ahead in the "silent" phase of our capital campaign, where we aim to raise more than \$100,000,000 to support undergraduate and graduate education, excellence in research and development, and broadened engagement across traditional and nontraditional stakeholder bases. With very little of our fundraising efforts

focusing on facilities, we have an opportunity to enhance our existing programs and reinforce a community of respect, innovation, and productivity.

The Elliott State Research Forest Exploratory Committee continues to move forward with their process, heading toward two key objectives, to identify what a world-class research program at the forest would include, and to collaboratively develop the vision and goals that would position the Elliott State Research Forest to serve as a world-leading source of scientific knowledge and discovery to advance forest management and conservation. Throughout the summer and into the fall, we will be expanding our consultation process and be ready to present our ideas to the land board at the end of the year. Updates will continue to [post here](#).

Also this fall we will fully launch our non-resident recruiting program, aimed at bringing students from a broader geographic reach into our great programs. This program, based on our belief that the education we deliver is outstanding, will connect our world-leading professors and top flight instructors with more students, expanding our footprint and increasing society's capacity to steward our natural resources. I've had the opportunity to talk with potential students and stakeholders about this program and they are excited to see it come to life.

Operationally, it would be hard not to reflect on the challenges we faced this past year. With budget cuts, a fluid process in recovering the construction schedules, and most deeply for me the [loss of Thomas](#) as a mentor and leader, we have been through a lot.

Financially, the hard decisions we've had to make over the past few months put us in a strong position to grow over the coming years. While we continue to see uncertainty in enrollment at the University level, decreased investment in higher education at the state level and research across the board, and costs rising beyond revenue, I remain optimistic that our areas of work and quality of products will serve as the drivers of new and expanded investment and opportunity.

At a nuts and bolts level, I look forward to meeting with members of the leadership team to discuss areas of strength and potential improvement as informed by our survey ([available here until 30 June](#); and I also should note the response rate has been quite strong!). This will enable us to move forward as an informed community, and thus better able to achieve our collective goals.

None of this gets into the sure to be whirlwind of activity with international congresses, national conventions, a presidential search, and more that will fill up the days and weeks before we know it, so I hope that you are able to find time this summer and enjoy the beauty of the region before that happens!

With deepest respect for all you do,

Anthony

Unit updates continue next (thanks to those who submitted!)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Consultant Visit

A consultant will work with the College in June/July with the following charge:

- Provide an independent analysis of the College DEI Strategic Plan related to the efficacy of strategies and actions noted, and to recommend improvements to the Plan.
- Gather and synthesize data to produce recommendations to guide future resourcing (people & funding) to deliver on College DEI Strategic Plan.

The consultant will produce a summary report and recommendations centered around the goals and based on findings to be provided to the Dean for his review and action.

FOBC – Roger Admiral

- AED update: all units functioning in department offices. Electrode packs have been replaced. These have 2 year replacement cycle. Charging battery is good to Sept 2022.
- There is still time to submit reimbursement requests before year end close!

Research Forests – Steve Fitzgerald

- We will be in fire season starting Monday, June 17th.
- We have several harvest operations going on (McDonald, Dunn, Ram's Dell, Blodgett) with appropriate closures to keep the public safe. We've had 3 people get cited (by the Benton Co. Sheriff's Office) for going through a harvest closure so far. In each case we reached a civil compromise and the charges were dropped.
- Completed a mastication project out at Oak Creek adjacent to neighboring properties and around the buildings out there (used by the OSU Dept. of Fish & Wildlife). We will be doing some additional tree thinning/removal in the next couple of weeks, which will complete the fuel reduction project in that area of the Forest.

TDI – Iain Macdonald

- TDI has made good progress with Emmerson machinery installation since mid May. Five of six machines have been delivered and the most complex one - our 75-foot long CNC - has been fully installed and commissioned and training provided to TDI staff and grad students. The Kuka robotic cell equipment is arriving at time of writing (June 10th) and a technical team will be installing and conducting training until June 21st. Further equipment installation will continue into mid July.
- Office furniture is being installed in Emmerson on July 2nd and the TDI team will move in shortly thereafter.
- TDI's new technical manager, Jorn Dettmer, started work on June 13th and has slotted into the team quickly, ably taking on the many technical challenges involved in commissioning the Emmerson Lab. Jorn first trained as a cabinet maker in Germany before obtaining his wood science Diploma of Engineering from the University of Applied Sciences in Eberswalde, Germany. He later obtained a Masters of Science in Forestry from UBC, focusing on wood composites. He has worked in the window and door industry and has operated his own fine furniture business, and most recently served as Technical Operations Manager and Lecturer in Wood Science at the Centre for Advanced Wood Processing, UBC.
- A search committee has selected candidates for interview for TDI's Structural Testing Coordinator position and interviews will be held during June and early July.
- On May 29th faculty members from CoF Wood Science and Engineering, College of Engineering and UO College of Design presented 14 proposals to a 12-member external review committee for the 2019 ARS research program. Notification of funded projects will be made by mid June.

Graduate Student Council – Neil Williams

- Ray Van Court (RVC) will replace Neil Williams (NGW) as the graduate student representative on the FEC, as of July 2019. Ray is the current chair of the Graduate Student Council, and has just defended their MS thesis in the WSE department, where they will continue working with Dr. Seri Robinson as a PhD. student.
- RVC and NGW recently met with Randy Rosenberger to discuss options for DEI education for graduate students in the CoF, and have tentatively outlined plans for the next two academic years. This will begin with a presence at the new student orientation, in September 2019, to provide incoming graduate students with basic awareness of diversity and equality issues, and the ways in which such issues manifest themselves in the course of everyday life here at OSU.
- The Grad Student Council has a lot of work to do in order to become the student body that we all want it to be, but we have set up structures to ensure continuity for future years. Over summer we will evaluate what has and hasn't worked, and how we can improve our ability to engage with, and serve, the graduate student body. We will also develop a longer-term strategy for the entire 2019-2020 academic year, and, in some areas, beyond.

International Programs – Michele Justice

- Borneo and Alpine Europe programs are underway – Matt Betts and Ian Munanura are leading 15 students to learn about biodiversity and community development in Borneo, and Eric Hansen will be headed to Slovenia and Italy with 13 to investigate forest product sustainable usage through manufacture and design.
- Thank you to all who participated in the Faculty International Engagement Survey – results will be made available this summer.
- Please remind all faculty and students of the requirement to register their international travel in the OSU online registry for insurance enrollment and risk management: <https://international.oregonstate.edu/international-travel>

Student Success – Randy Rosenberger

- Commencement Dinner, June 14th
- Commencement Breakfast, June 15th, 8am
- Commencement, June 15th, COF: 209 graduates, 4 honors

Computing Resources – Terralyn Vandetta

- Helpdesk says goodbye to 2 graduating Student Technology Consultants – Travis Gray and AJ Vandetta
- Helpdesk hours are reduced to 8am-5pm M-F for the Summer break.

Marketing & Communications – Michael Collins

- Recruiting: We're still slightly off from a year ago at this time for advanced tuition deposits (a student's indication they will be attending OSU). We are up in first-years, forestry, and TRAL majors. We are down in transfers, FE, and NR majors. About 60 transfer apps are awaiting processing due to missing information. We are calling these students to inform them of the missing information and if they are interested in OSU.
- Please reach out and schedule a meeting with me if you're interested in reviewing our plans for the upcoming recruitment cycle.
- Thanks to the excellent lead work by Ana Barros, the [What Were You Wearing](#) project had nearly 2,500 visitors during Sexual Assault Awareness Month and was the third-most visited page on the forestry website during that time. [What Were You Wearing?](#) is an art exhibit based on student-survivor descriptions of the clothes they were wearing during their sexual assault. Thanks to everyone who worked on this important project and made it a success.

- The lab opening and Dean's Dinner were a success, with record turnout for our dinner. Thanks to everyone who attended or helped with the event, with a special thanks to Jessica Fitzmorris for all of her hard work. We'll be reaching out soon to receive feedback on the new format.
- The "storytelling" process for the Peavy Forest Science Center is ramping up again. Please keep an eye out for storytelling emails asking for feedback.