

FORESTRY TECHNOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT - AUGUST 1969

SELKIRK
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ARCHIVES

This report summarizes activities in the Forestry Technology program during the 1968-69 academic year.

1. STUDENTS

Twenty-four students were admitted to the Forestry Technology program for September 1968 - of these, twenty-two registered. Sixteen of these students remained in April 1969. Twelve of these are eligible to return for second year. Only one student was requested to withdraw during the year. The rest dropped out for academic reasons or lack of interest in forestry. Seventeen students were registered in a full or partial second year. Eleven of these students graduated while the remainder failed some courses which they will probably complete in the coming year. It is worthy to note that six of the eleven graduating students were from the old General Program.

Student placement, both permanent for graduates and temporary for first-year students, was excellent. Almost all graduates were placed and all first-year students found very useful summer employment.

2. CURRICULUM

New courses in Forest Pathology and Forest Entomology were added to the curriculum in January 1969. All other courses were updated to include new techniques and practices being introduced by industry and government. First-year students are now required to carry out some sort of project during the summer, write a technical report on this project and give this report orally during second year.

The field school this year was carried out on an area near the Blueberry-Palsson Highway about five miles from the College.

3. FACILITIES

Our facilities have improved considerably over this year. However, there are still areas where our facilities are inadequate and because of this some parts of our program are not up to standard:

1. We need a forest area of our own where we can carry out some operations which we presently cannot do on crown or private lands.
2. We need a greenhouse.
3. We have very inadequate space for storage of equipment and supplies.
4. Transportation for field trips is a continuing problem.

Numbers 2 and 3 above I hope will be alleviated after bylaw. We are looking into the possibility of obtaining a "Map Reserve" on the area where we held our field school this spring. If we can obtain the map reserve we will be able to conduct some work in the area which we haven't been able to do yet. This land status does not have any financial obligations for the College.

The transportation problem is difficult to solve. We would like to lease a suitable bus-type vehicle on a permanent basis. The local vehicle rental agencies will not bring in the type of vehicle we require if it is only to be used on an intermittent basis. We have been chartering Kootenay Valley Coach Line buses but, for many purposes, they are unsatisfactory - the service is terrible and they are often unsuitable. I am going to visit some agencies in Vancouver to see if we can come up with a more satisfactory arrangement for field trip transportation.

4. LIBRARY

Approximately one hundred books have been added to our holdings in forestry and resource management. We now have an adequate library for our purposes and from now we will only have to keep up with new publications in the field.

5. STAFF

Mr. Chambers' resignation late last summer caused some disruption in the program. One course could not be given during the fall term but an abbreviated version was given in the winter term when Mr. Holden came on staff. Our staff is of satisfactory size providing we can continue to use Mr. Blaine to teach a course when required and providing enrollment in first year stops around twenty to twenty-five.

6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The original Forestry Technology Advisory Committee has not met formally since the first year of operation. However, all of us are in contact fairly often with most members of the committee. I have reconstituted the committee to make it more broadly representative and the first meeting will take place in the Fall of 1969.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Attendance at Fire Control Course in Kelowna

All forestry technology students attended a two-day fire control course sponsored by the Canadian Forestry Association in Kelowna. This was a very worthwhile endeavour from many points of view. It gave the students a chance to mingle with almost all potential employers from the B.C. Southern Interior and it gave employers a chance to look over our students. The course was very valuable to the students and to the staff who attended. We obtained good publicity on all news media. I have since heard many favourable comments about our students as a result of our attendance at the meeting and I am sure it helped in placing graduates this year. I have suggested to the C.F.A. that the next Fire Control Course be held at Selkirk College.

B. Professional Meetings

Mr. Munro attended a U.B.C. extension course on Intensive Forest Management in the Fall of 1969.

C. Industry and Forest Service Co-operation

We are obtaining very good co-operation from both Industry and Government (Federal and Provincial) for guest speakers, equipment demonstration, field trips and borrowing equipment we have not been able to purchase. I believe this is due to the fact that all our staff maintains close contact with forestry personnel in this area.

D. Summer Work

Mr. Holden has been employed for most of the summer with a consulting firm in Vancouver while Mr. Munro continues as a consultant to many of the small forest industry operators in the area.

E. Graduate Student Questionnaire

I have begun following up students who have graduated and have been working for one year. The purpose of the questionnaire is to find out what sort of jobs these people are now holding, whether or not their training here prepared them for their work and how the program could have been improved to better train them for their positions.

F. Association of B.C. Forest Technologists

Under Mr. Blaine's chairmanship, this association has now become registered under the societies act. Our graduates will be eligible for membership in the association on the same basis as graduates from any other institution under their present constitution.