

Preserve the Approved, Ensure Progress

The "Faculty of Forestry" of the University of Applied Sciences Eberswalde becomes "Faculty of Forest and Environment"

Genesis and motivation

The university-internal request of the faculty "Forestry" of the UoAS Eberswalde to rename the faculty into "Forest and Environment" was the result and completion of an already eleven years lasting way of the new- and re-organisation of its study programme offer.

Already in 1998 the bachelor study programme "International Forest Ecosystem Management" was introduced, in addition to the profile-building study programme "Forestry". During the last five years the consequent constitution of the master study programmes "Forest Information Technology" and "Global Change Management" was realised. This thematic development was also further advanced by the appointment of new professors. Thus, the content of the currently offered study programmes clearly exceeds the realm of forestry in the sense of forest that is mainly managed for wood production and heavily influenced by humans. On the contrary, the faculty has its focus in teaching and research on the holistic management of (forest) ecosystems. This orientation does not mean a renunciation from the tradition in forestry in Eberswalde, but is rather a consequential development as an answer to scientific and conceptual progress and structural changes in the sector of forestry.

This discrepancy was realised in the advisory board and discussed since 2004. A common evaluation that it is necessary to rename the faculty was approved by a broad consensus from the beginning of the decision process. Extensive consultations in the aftermath lead to the design of a new and suitable name for the faculty.

Advantages of the new name of the faculty

The term "Faculty of Forest and Environment" holds in our opinion number of important advantages:

- The term "Forest" defines an unambiguous, broadened focal point in teaching and research; it is no oppositional term, but includes managed forest and hence forestry; it defines differences against other forms of use and vegetation
- The term "Environment" broadens the name-profile in terms of content that exceed the immediate relation to forest of the faculty; it represents especially the already existing expertise in environmental technologies, global environmental change and socio-economics. It also allows for the fact that forest ecosystems cannot be managed without taking into account *their* surrounding.
- Looking at both terms the new name of the faculty is suitable to build a roof that connects contents of different fields of interest under which the study programmes with their present names are connected to form the mission profile of a forest-related academic education.

Prof. Dr. Harald Schill, Prof. Dr. Pierre Ibisch

Eberswalde, September 2007