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**MEMORANDUM**

September 5, 2007

To: Senate
c/o Lisa Collins, Assistant Registrar, Senate and Curriculum Services

From: David H. Farrar
Provost and Vice President Academic

**Re: BC Leadership Chair in Advanced Forest Products Manufacturing Technology**

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that Senate approve the establishment of the BC Leadership Chair in Advanced Forest Products Manufacturing Technology, made possible by funding from the Canadian Forest Service, FPInnovations, Tolko Industries, Viance, the UBC Centre for Advanced Wood Processing Endowment, and the provincial government's Leading Edge Endowment Fund.

**Rationale:**

The B.C. Leadership Chairs were designed "to attract world class faculty to strengthen the province's capacity for innovative research and promote B.C. as a centre for cutting-edge research, enhancing economic development positioning the province as a leader in the knowledge-based economy." The Chair in Advanced Forest Products Manufacturing Technology will establish an interdisciplinary research program integrating universities, research institutes and industry to focus on the creation of the knowledge and technology needed to develop new bio-composite materials and substantially improve the properties of lumber and wood based panels. State-of-the-art information technologies will be employed in the research program and innovative solutions will be shared for the benefit of the BC forest sector, broadly defined.

The Chair in Advanced Forest Products Manufacturing Technology will be a prominent campus leader. The Chairholder will bridge forestry, materials science and wood products processing, taking the Centre for Advanced Wood Processing in a new direction and assisting applied scientists and engineers to improve the quality of the products produced by the province's wood products processing industries. The Chair will be critical to enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of the BC Forest Sector, and the economic health and development of regional British Columbia, particularly where affected by the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

The Chair will reside in the Department of Wood Science, Faculty of Forestry.