

Education Committee report: May 2022

National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP)

Andrew J. Storer, Education Committee Chair
storer@mtu.edu

1. SAF Accreditation

The education committee chair continues to serve on the Education Policy Review Committee of SAF. This committee has not met since the last NAUFRP Executive Committee meeting, but a meeting schedule is currently being developed.

2. Biennial Conference on Undergraduate Education in Natural Resources

The 2022 BCUENR meeting was hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources and College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources on March 23-24, 2022 with the theme *'Inclusive Natural Resources Education'*.

The 2024 15th BCUENR will be hosted at Oregon State University, and the 2026 16th BCUENR will be hosted at Michigan Technological University.

The 2026 meeting will include a parallel meeting for students in undergraduate programs in natural resources to help amplify their voice. The student conference will be held off campus and provide an opportunity for student led workshops to discuss various issues in undergraduate education. Input from the NAUFRP Education Committee and others will be requested to help guide this student conference to work to address issues across the educational landscape. The BCUENR will culminate in a session where the student conference come together with the BCUENR participants to share information developed during the workshops.

3. New initiatives to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and sense of belonging in forestry education programs.

The Education Committee chair met with Diversity Committee chair Yeon-Su Kim as discussed at the March meeting. The white paper developed by Dr Tara Bal (Michigan Tech) and Dr Marcella Windmuller-Campione (University of Minnesota) was discussed, along with the interest in developing tools for culturally responsive teaching in forestry. It was recognized that to achieve the goal of integrating data that reflect the input from instructors, admin and others into these tools will take investment. The committee chairs agreed to work with the investigators to a) identify ways to integrate the work with other ongoing efforts, b) identify expertise in the social sciences to participate in the work, and c) identify sources of funding for the proposed work, including from NAUFRP and participating institutions.

4. Fall enrollments

In early Fall, the education committee plans to send a short survey to find out about early indications of enrollment numbers in Forestry and Forest Resource programs. This provides membership with an early indication of trends within NAUFRP, and will be shared with participating programs. Many program leaders are asked questions in the Fall about their enrollments relative to trends at other institutions, and

this informal survey is aimed to assist with responding to these questions. The survey will be brief, and suggestions for content can be shared with the Education Committee chair.

5. Education Committee Membership.

The Education Committee chair will be working with other NAUFRP institutions to build membership of the education committee. Please encourage interested faculty to contact the chair to indicate their interest.