

Education Committee report: October 2020

National Association of University Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP)

Andrew J. Storer, Education Committee Chair

K-12 outreach

A report from K-12 outreach workshop at NAUFRP general assembly (Louisville: October 2019) will be available in next few weeks. This will include the results from a workshop discussing how high school students hear about forestry, and related discussions of K-12 outreach. Participants were involved in small group discussions, and completed a short paper survey. The survey focused on outreach activities at different institutions, who is responsible for these activities, and how is their success evaluated. Responses to the question regarding level of satisfaction with outreach activities at your institution, had a mean score of 7 (1 is very satisfied, 10 is very dissatisfied). Satisfaction with outreach within the academic unit scored 6.2 on this scale. Time, money and staffing are the predominant limiting factors.

BCUENR

NAUFRP institutions were well represented at the Biennial Conference on Undergraduate Education in Natural Resources (BCUENR) meeting in Missoula, Montana in March 2020. SAF was also represented and the agenda included a discussion of the revisions to the accreditation standards. The education chair planned to attend the in. Travel restrictions and responding to the Covid-19 pandemic precluded the education chair from attending in person.

SAF Accreditation

- Ongoing accreditation (AY2019-2020) reviews will be completed.
- AY2020-2021 reviews will be postponed 1 year.
- AY2021-2022 reviews will be under the current standards

At the Spring meeting, the Executive Committee requested that SAF include the NAUFRP education chair as a part of the discussion of accreditation standards review. Andrew will contact Carol Redelsheimer about the status of this. The lack of in person meetings risks reducing the transparency of, and input into, this process.

Teaching during the pandemic

The Executive Committee members discussed a NAUFRP Covid Education Forum in light of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Discussions occurred in other NAUFRP venues, including the Northcentral and other regional committees. There was also an extensive email exchange of plans and experiences with face-2-face instruction and remote instruction which was viewed as very useful. There were 25 responses in the email chain. Thank you to all who took the time to share their experiences and challenges, and to Charles Goebel for collating these. If you need a copy of these responses, please let us know. Also, if there is a benefit to summarizing these responses around the themes that arose, please let us know.

Global study of forest-related education

The US is represented by Terry Sharik, previous NAUFRP education chair, in a global study of forest-related education that includes surveys that span primary, secondary, and tertiary education, and involves teachers and administrators, students, and external organizations. The surveys are part of a project led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International

Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), in cooperation with regional representatives like me, and funded by the Government of Germany. Terry requested that NAUFRP institutions circulate the survey, and responses were understandably mixed given the number of requests for people's time as they adjusted to the pandemic. Some institutions were willing to circulate the survey, while others suggested delaying it. Responses received prior to the end of October will be included in a report to FAO, but the survey will remain open beyond that date. As of October 30, four institutions have submitted responses while the survey has been circulated at an additional four institutions.

Upcoming publication

Sharik TL, AJ Storer, TL Bal, D. Abbas. 2020. Education as a driver of change in U.S. forests and the forest sector. In: Dockry MJ, DN Bengston, LM comps. Drivers of change for U.S. forests and forestry over the next 20 years. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-197. USDA FS, Northern Research Station.

Membership

- Gwendolyn D. L. Boyd, Associate Professor and Forestry Director, Alcorn State University
 - Keith Gillies, Dean Emeritus and Professor, Rausser College of Natural Resources, UC Berkeley
- If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact storer@mtu.edu.