Memorandum

TO: IESAF Executive Council

FM: Ron Mahoney, Faculty Advisor, UISAF

RE: EC Meeting 5-7-14 Report for UISAF

UISAF has continued to have bi-weekly Student Chapter meetings during this Spring 2014 semester. At the beginning of the semester we held elections for open positions as Chair Elect, Secretary, SAC (Student Affairs Council for CNR), Recruitment, Webmaster, and Treasurer. These positions are now filled by: Dan Fletcher-Chair Elect, Kevin Fuchs-Secretary, Cole Lindsey-SAC Rep, Wes Vestal-Recruitment, Jake Tubbs-Webmaster, and Brian Mumby-Treasurer. Most positions run from January until the end of December, unless we have Spring graduations of officers, which is the case for several this year. Pat Mahoney will remain as UISAF Chair through December 2014.

UISAF has been active in CNR and UI events for recruiting students to programs and professional clubs. We have also conducted several recruiting events, beginning with a semester opening free pizza meeting. We just held a semester ending (nearly!) BBQ at the park adjacent to UI, where we invited an entire freshman natural resources class and sent several reminders, and no one but current UISAF members showed up. This is unfortunately typical for many clubs and professional student organizations, in recent years. Part of the problem is so many competing interests and so little time. Another factor is that there are only a couple of faculty in the UI Forestry, Range and Fire Sciences Department that are SAF members, and most only attend national events, if at all. Our Department Head and Dean are very supportive, but I miss the old days when SAF membership, and graduation from an SAF accredited degree program was mandatory for forestry faculty!

On a more positive not, we have maintained a somewhat small but committed and active core of UISAF members. We are looking at several new opportunities for fund raising that also incorporate meaningful forestry learning activities. One of these will be to harvest and saw on-site some black cherry, walnut, and birch trees from experimental plantings I did at Sandpoint Research and Extension Station about 25 years ago. ***We are hoping to find someone with a portable sawmill in the Sandpoint area, preferably a band saw, to work with us to saw 1” boards from 8-16” diameter cherry and walnut logs, maybe 20 of these, along with some smaller 6-8” birch trees, at the Sandpoint Station, in the early Fall. Please let me know if you have anyone I could contact about this, or have them contact me.*** Then, we will take the boards to UI-CNR wood lab and use the small kiln there to dry the boards, followed by use of the wood shop to make cutting boards for sale by UISAF. We have several UI Forest Products faculty/staff onboard the project to help, including Tom Gorman and Carl Morrow. We hope to entice professor emeritus Fran Wagner to help with the kiln operation.

UISAF is disappointed that IESAF remains committed to holding its annual meeting in the fall, instead of the traditional spring meeting time, and within a few weeks of the national SAF convention. This is logistically and financially a burden and conflict for our student members who always want to be active in all local, state and national SAF events. We also wonder if the meeting committee has considered using the Lodge at Palouse Divide for the event as it is very close to the proposed field trip location and reportedly excellent for group meetings.

Our students will complete this school year on May 16, and most will be off to the far corners of the USA and some abroad until the last week of August. Most of them do not respond to email to their UI email addresses during this time, so if there are any important IESAF communications that can be done before May 16, that would be good. Please always copy me on any communications, or send them to me and I will pass them on. I have personal contact information to the UISAF leaders, and can maintain communications during the summer. Our students are finding jobs plentiful and interesting, and most are excited about their emerging careers in forestry!

Ron Mahoney, Faculty Advisor

UISAF