



The International Partnership for Forestry Education (IPFE) Charter

Preamble:

The International Partnership for Forestry Education (IPFE) is a not-for-profit, voluntary partnership to address the challenges and opportunities facing university-level forestry education globally. IPFE facilitates collaboration, and sharing of information, experiences, resources and skills, for education about forests and forestry.

Vision

Our vision is of forestry education that is contemporary, locally-relevant and globally connected, and responsive to the global development agenda.

Mission

IPFE is a global network to assist university-level forestry education to meet society's needs. It facilitates partnerships between university forestry educators and other relevant institutions to jointly improve the quality and relevance of forestry education programmes.

Priorities:

IPFE's priorities are defined as:

- sharing learning and experiences of curricula, courses, methods and joint programming;
- strengthening and connecting regional networks in order to share knowledge and address needs;
- partnering with student bodies to learn from, support and enhance their learning;
- fostering dialogue among diverse interests about forests and forestry education;
- enhancing societies' understanding of forests and forestry; a key role for universities;

Governance

1) The Executive Office:

The Executive Office provides leadership for the partnership, and consists of the Chairperson and three Vice-Chairs. All posts would be voluntary and among the four posts, two would be represented by institutions from the developing world using the following criteria:

- Geographic representation
- Commitment towards the partnership
- Track record relevant to forestry education.

The Executive Office shall be appointed by the General Assembly for a term of three years, renewable only once.

The Secretary of IPFE is an *ex officio* member of the Executive Office.

The Executive Office convenes at least once a year.

2) The Steering Committee:

The function of the Steering Committee would be to advise the Executive Office and membership at large on strategic issues pertaining to the partnership. The Steering Committee is composed of prominent persons from education institutions, international organizations, industry, NGO's, research institutions and Networks, on a voluntary basis. It is composed of 11 to 13 members with due consideration to geographic distribution, discipline, and affiliation. The International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) has a permanent seat on the Steering Committee.

The Chairperson proposes names of the Steering Committee to the General assembly for approval. The Chair of the Steering Committee is elected among members of IPFE. The Steering Committee is convened by the Chairperson at least once a year (depending upon availability of resources).

3) The Secretariat:

The IPFE Secretariat is at present co-hosted by the University of Joensuu in Finland and by the University of British Columbia in Canada. It is entrusted with the following main tasks:

- Coordination and internal communications among Partners,
- Organization of meetings and events,
- Public relations and information dissemination,
- Fund raising and resource mobilization; and
- Knowledge generation and sharing;
- Administration of the Partnership;

The IPFE Secretary is nominated by IPFE Chairperson and approved by the General Assembly, with due consideration to offers from member institutions to host the Secretariat. The term of office is three years, renewable upon approval of the General Assembly, and the Host Institute.

4) The General Assembly:

The General Assembly is the supreme authority of IPFE. It is composed of representatives of all member institutions. Representatives are nominated by their respective institutions. The General Assembly is chaired by IPFE Chairperson.

Members of the Executive Office are *ex officio* members of the General Assembly. The General assembly may appoint other persons on a voluntary basis for specific tasks or as Advisors. Decisions of the General Assembly are by consensus in general, or by two-thirds majority, if no consensus is reached.

Membership:

Membership is open to institutions engaged in or committed to university-level forestry education – including, for example, regional forestry education networks, universities, research centers, and international organizations. Application for membership should be addressed to the IPFE Secretariat indicating acceptance of this Charter and stating the

name of the institution, location, and the name of representative. Applications have to be approved by the Executive Office and ultimately by the General Assembly.

Finances:

IPFE is a partnership financed entirely through grants, contributions and project funding. IPFE operates on project basis, and endeavours to secure funding to support its mission. All project proposals and requests for funding activities under the auspices of IPFE must be submitted through the secretariat and approved by the Executive Office, and will be reported to the General Assembly. The costs of participation in any IPFE activities, projects or meetings should be borne by members.