

April 25, 2017

Katherine McCormick
Chair, University of Kentucky Senate Council

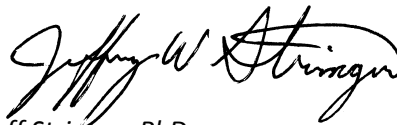
Dear Dr. McCormick,

The proposed name change from "Department of Forestry" to the "Department of Forestry and Natural Resources" raised some questions among faculty in CAFE about potential conflicts with the interdisciplinary, multi-departmental undergraduate program "Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences" (NRES) in CAFE. At issue was the potential for confusion and/or conflict the name change will cause for incoming students, as the inclusion of "Natural Resources" is very similar to the name of the interdisciplinary NRES undergraduate program. Concern was also expressed about whether the department name change was suggestive of a shift in the department's B.S. program in forestry towards a broader natural resources degree. After some discussion, faculty representing these programs determined that there is a need to create a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that describes the cooperation between the Forestry Department and the NRES program and shared resources (including faculty time), provides evidence that the NRES program is valued by the Department, and this value is reflected in the Department's decision-making processes. Also affirmed in the MOU would be the department's commitment to an unchanged mission for their undergraduate degree program, a Society of American Foresters (SAF) accredited professional forestry degree. It is our hope that an MOU of this nature would ultimately be replicated among all the departments similarly sharing resources with the NRES program. Both parties are in agreement on this path forward and discussions are currently underway to create an MOU between the Department of Forestry and the NRES program in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



David H. McNear Jr., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Rhizosphere Science
NRES Director of Undergraduate Studies



Jeff Stringer, PhD
Professor of Hardwood Silviculture and Forest
Operations
Interim chair, Department of Forestry