

## Appendix II

### Memorandum of Understanding Between the Natural Areas Association and the

\_\_\_\_\_ **Student Chapter**  
of the Natural Areas Association

*The mission of the Natural Areas Association is to advance the preservation of natural diversity. The Association works to inform, unite, and support persons engaged in identifying, protecting, managing, and studying natural areas and biological diversity across landscapes and ecosystems.*

#### **Background:**

The Natural Areas Association (NAA): Natural areas managers inventory, manage, monitor, and study representative protected natural populations and ecosystems. The NAA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a vital resource, providing natural areas 'defenders' with the tools and information they need to be successful. The NAA has been serving natural areas professionals, and volunteers, for over 35 years.

In October, 2010, the NAA Board of Directors resolved to support the establishment and operation of student chapters by piloting a program with two universities, University of Wisconsin – Stout and Southern Illinois University - Carbondale.

Student and faculty representatives of both institutions met with NAA board members in Osage Beach, Missouri on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to discuss the benefits of Student Chapters to students and to NAA. From these discussions, the NAA board now resolves the following:

Students at institutions of higher learning, colleges and universities, are an important constituent and their pursuit of careers in the natural areas profession is critical to sustaining natural areas into the future. To this end, NAA as a professional organization would like to provide a framework for students to:

- Engage with natural areas professionals
- Connect with students interested in natural areas professions from other parts of the country.
- Participate in NAA sponsored events such as the Natural Areas Conferences and workshops
- Publish in NAA publications such as the Natural Areas Journal and Natural Area Newsletter.
- Find jobs through the NAA network.
- Belong to a professional organization.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to outline the terms of agreement between the Natural Areas Association (NAA) and the **(Chapter name)**.

Whereby, NAA and (**University**) recognize the mutual benefits of building upon this relationship by forming a Student Chapter of NAA. To guide this process, NAA and the (**Chapter name**) Student Chapter agree to the following terms:

The (**Chapter name**) Student Chapter agrees to:

1. Uphold the mission of NAA.
2. Have a Faculty/Staff Sponsor from the same institution.
3. Establish a student governing board including at minimum a president and secretary.
4. Hold a minimum of 2 meetings and 1 field trip per semester.
5. Maintain a chapter membership list. Provide this list and students' contact information to the NAA so that NAA can keep individual members informed of activities.
6. If possible establish a Facebook page or other student chapter web presence that connects to NAA's website and Facebook page. Chapter members are also encouraged to actively contribute to and participate with NAA's Facebook page.
7. Be listed on the University's website as one of the student clubs available to join.
8. Establish a link to the NAA website ([www.naturalareas.org](http://www.naturalareas.org)) from the University's website.
9. Join the NAA as a Student Chapter member at the annual student institutional fee of \$50/yr.

The NAA further recommends that the Student Chapter:

1. Hold other events as desired or needed
2. Actively recruit students to the NAA chapter
3. Encourage members of the student chapter to join NAA as student members
4. Have members attend NAA conferences as often as possible
5. Submit poster and paper presentations to the annual Natural Areas Conference as often as possible
6. Hold fund raising events to support both relevant local activities and to support NAA programs.
7. Encourage your university's library to become a Natural Areas Journal subscriber.

NAA agrees to:

1. Provide membership benefits as accorded to student members (electronic copy of the Natural Areas Newsletter (NAN), reduced registration fee for the annual NAA Conference, access to conference proceedings on the NAA website, etc.).
2. Provide an NAA liaison who would act as the main point of contact between the student chapter and the NAA board.
3. Provide opportunities at the NAA conference for the NAC Student Chapter to conduct business, such as meeting space, program announcements, display space, or other assistance as approved by the Conference Organizer.
4. Provide a reduced registration fee for NAA student chapter members to attend the national conferences.
5. Provide opportunities for reporting on chapter news in the NAN.
6. Facilitate, to the extent possible, contact with local NAA members who may provide speaking engagements, field trips, volunteer work days, mentoring, or other cooperative activities.

**Limitations:**

Whereby, this MOU formalizes a partnership between NAA and the (Chapter name) Student Chapter for one year from the date of signing by both parties and according to the terms of this agreement. This is a one-year pilot project to facilitate the creation of at this and other university's Student Chapters. This MOU can be terminated by either organization within 30 days notice, may be modified only by written amendment agreed to by both NAA and the (Chapter name) Student Chapter, and shall not be construed as requiring any expenditure of funds by either party.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Heidorn, President, Natural Areas Association

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Chapter designee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date