

# Higher Education Committee Annual Status Report



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Brad G. Loar, CFM  
Jerry Murphy, AICP, CFM  
Co-chairs

## Introduction

The primary mission of the Higher Education Policy Committee is to promote floodplain management educational programs and research to colleges and universities at the post-secondary level. Recognizing the lack of post-secondary degree programs, the ASFPM Certification Board of Regents created this committee in 2012. The committee continues to develop and support existing training programs, and works to encourage institutions of higher learning to advance floodplain management and establish certificate programs, degree programs, and minors in floodplain management.

## Priorities

### **Maintaining a committee structure:**

- Participate on conference calls and retreat.
- Attend policy committee chair meetings and hold an annual meeting.
- Organize and facilitate regular committee conference calls.
- Represent ASFPM when asked.
- Solicit new members.

### **Establishing and maintaining a forum:**

- Conduct quarterly conference calls on desired subjects.
- Solicit topics and interested presenters.
- Maintain and expand list of administrators, faculty, and allied professionals.
- Establish a peer-reviewed journal or participate in an established journal.

### **Promoting floodplain management as a professional career and recognized field of post-secondary study:**

- Develop core curriculum for all levels of post-secondary educational instruction that can be expanded for broader educational opportunities.
- Support and mentor other efforts to establish floodplain management courses, degrees, and minors.
- Identify curriculum champions, share experience, and provide available support.
- Assist in developing doctoral and post-doctoral topics.

## Recommended Actions

- Brad Loar, CFM, formerly the Mitigation Division Director of FEMA Region IV has volunteered as co-chair or liaison to be available to attend all conference calls and committee retreats.
- Prepare for the committee's retreat and the annual higher education policy committee meeting.
- Prepare notes of annual meeting for distribution.
- Organize and facilitate regular bi-monthly conference calls with active committee members (hours assume both co-chairs participating, six calls per year, and prep/post meeting tasks).
- Continue liaise collaboration between ASFPM with Wiley Press and their Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) concerning partnering in the publishing of their *Journal of Flood Risk Management*. ASFPM Executive Office staff are currently in negotiations with CIWEM. This ongoing activity has taken a bit of a pause due to COVID-19 and the *Journal* going to "open source." Direction will be needed from ASFPM as to how and when to proceed.
- Continue to expand on and improve viability of existing and potential programs, market the programs, and identify supporting resources for establishing programs.
- Continue to share experiences and provide general support to create certifications, courses, degrees, and minors.
- Facilitating inter-association discussion of how climate change and risk-reducing measures should be integrated into higher education and ASFPM policy. This effort is currently being shepherded by Bob Freitag, former higher education committee co-chair, who has stepped down as co-chair to lead this project.
- In an effort to promote diversity and inclusion, the committee has been identified to work with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to promote the study of floodplain management.
- The committee is going to investigate and potentially pursue a Graduate Certificate in Floodplain Stewardship. This will be done regardless of the activities to establish a major or minor in the referenced subject. Such certificates bring together a variety of like subjects to focus on a concept.