



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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24 February 2009

MEMO TO: Nancy Targett, Dean
College of Marine and Earth Studies

MEMO FROM: Brian Hanson, Chair
Department of Geography

SUBJECT: Undergraduate Environmental Curriculum Committee

The Department of Geography faculty has carefully considered the revision of the Environmental Sciences major and the proposed Environmental Studies major. The faculty enthusiastically endorse both proposals, seeing these programs as integral to the focus of the undergraduate program in the new college as well as central to the discipline of geography with its emphasis on the physical, human and cultural processes that shape our world. As you know, the Environmental Science program was originated in the Department of Geography and has been successfully administered by the department faculty. Given the faculty's many links to other participating disciplines, we believe the department is well-positioned to continue administration of the revised Environmental Science major as well as the new Environmental Studies program.

In endorsing these proposals, the faculty are also mindful of the additional resources required to administer and participate in these programs, given their expected success in attracting larger number of students. We anticipate the need to add new courses to fully contribute to the new curricula as well as open our existing classes to larger enrollments. Some of the courses required in this program cannot expand their size without larger instructional computing facilities or their frequency without additional faculty and teaching assistant support. Our existing obligations to our successful graduate program, the honors program, the GIS community, and the present needs of students in several majors already place significant strain on the small size of our faculty. Our enthusiasm for the new environmental programs is thus tempered with the realization that their hopeful success and growth will place significant strains on our ability to serve both our present constituencies as well as these new programs without additional faculty lines.

In summary, the faculty stand ready to play a major role in this new academic enterprise which will not only be a centerpiece of the new college but will also further strengthen geography that is by its nature a discipline principally engaged in the relations of human culture and the physical environment.



February 25, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Nancy Targett
Dean, College of Marine and Earth Studies
Chair, UD Undergraduate Environmental Studies Program and Curriculum Committee

From: Judy Hough-Goldstein 
Acting Chair, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology

Re.: Letter of Support for Proposed Environmental Science and Environmental Studies
Degrees

On behalf of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, I am writing to express our department's support for the proposed new BA in Environmental Studies and the revised BS in Environmental Science degrees. The major impact of these new majors on our department will be a potentially large increase in numbers of students in our classes, especially ENWC 201, Wildlife Conservation and Ecology, which is a core requirement for the Environmental Science major. ENWC 205, Elements of Entomology and ENWC 325, Wildlife Management, may also see significant increases, since they will be required for the Concentration in Ecology and Organismal Biology. In addition, our laboratory-based courses, which are listed as options in the concentration, are already typically filled with our current majors and minors. That said, we are working on a plan with Dean Morgan to significantly increase our teaching capabilities by adding two non-tenure track faculty lines in the near future. These lines, defined primarily or exclusively as teaching lines, will make it possible for us to support this potentially very attractive new major and concentration.