

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

*Vice-President Academic*

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Senate **From:** J. Munro, Chair  
Senate Committee on  
Academic Planning

**Subject:** Natural Resources Management - **Date:** February 7, 1991  
Change of Status

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Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning gives rise to the following motion:

**MOTION:** "that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.91 - 13 , the change in status of the Natural Resources Management Program to the School of Resource and Environmental Management."



MEMORANDUM  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

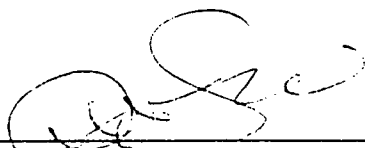
SCAP 91-1

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**DATE:** January 10, 1991  
**TO:** Dr. Jock Munro  
Vice-President, Academic  
**FROM:** Dr. Donald A. George  
Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences  
**RE:** Natural Resources Management

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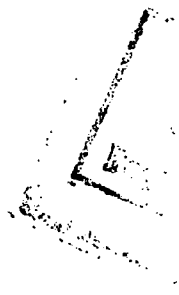
Attached is a proposal from Dr. Gunton to change the status of the Natural Resources Management Program to the School of Resource and Environmental Management. The Faculty of Applied Sciences considers this change to be both appropriate and timely, and is pleased to strongly endorse the proposal.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald A. George

DAG/lc

Enclosure

cc: Faculty of Applied Sciences Executive Committee



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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

FACULTY OF  
APPLIED SCIENCES

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Don George, Dean                      FROM: Dr. T.I. Gunton  
Faculty of Applied Sciences                      Director

RE: NRM Status                                      DATE: October 22, 1990

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Subject: Change of status of Natural Resource Management from Natural Resource management Program to School of Resource and Environmental Management.

Background

The Natural Resource Management Program (NRM) was created in 1979. NRM is structured as an interdisciplinary graduate program providing professional training in the field of resource and environmental management. The impetus for this program came from the growing recognition of the importance of natural resources and the environment and from the changing nature of resource and environmental policy issues which increasingly demand an interdisciplinary perspective. NRM has gained a national reputation as an innovative and unique program attracting high quality students and substantial research funding.

When NRM was created in 1979 it was envisaged that it would grow to a full fledged academic unit comprised of 12-15 faculty. During its initial stages, however, NRM was structured as a program utilizing faculty from other existing departments. NRM has now grown to the size where the program status is no longer appropriate.

1) Faculty Growth

When NRM was created in 1979, it consisted of one full time Director and two faculty with joint appointments for a total FTE of 1.75. Currently, NRM has 9.75 faculty and is the home department for 10 faculty. NRM's current faculty are listed below.

| Name     | Rank      | Year | % Appointment with NRM | Home Dept. |
|----------|-----------|------|------------------------|------------|
| Day      | Professor | 1979 | 100                    | NRM        |
| Peterman | Professor | 1979 | 100                    | NRM        |
| Gunton   | Associate | 1981 | 100                    | NRM        |
| Gill     | Assistant | 1985 | .25                    | Geog       |

|           |           |      |     |     |
|-----------|-----------|------|-----|-----|
| M'Gonigle | Associate | 1986 | 100 | NRM |
| Jaccard   | Assistant | 1988 | 100 | NRM |
| Williams  | Associate | 1989 | 100 | NRM |
| Knetsch   | Professor | 1990 | .50 | NRM |
| Schreyer  | Professor | 1990 | 100 | NRM |
| Gobas     | Assistant | 1990 | 100 | NRM |
| *         | Assistant | 1990 | 100 | NRM |

\*Position to be filled in December 1990.

Associated faculty in other departments involved in NRM included the following:

|                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| J.H. Borden,        | Dept. of Biological Sciences       |
| Parzival Copes,     | Economics                          |
| Edward M. Gibson,   | Dept. of Geography                 |
| Alton Harestad,     | Dept. of Biological Sciences       |
| John Pierce,        | Dept. of Geography                 |
| John Richards,      | Faculty of Business Administration |
| Arthur Roberts,     | Dept. of Geography                 |
| Michael C. Roberts, | Dept. of Geography                 |
| Richard Routledge,  | Dept. of Mathematics               |
| Jim W. Wilson,      | Dept. of Geography                 |

In addition to the above, NRM maintains specific links with government, private industry and crown corporations by the appointment of 19 adjunct faculty.

## 2) Student Enrollment

NRM has a current student FTE of 61, placing it among the largest SFU graduate programs. For the past several years, NRM has received about 140 applications annually. Due to capacity constraints, NRM admits between 20 and 25 students per year. The competition for admission is reflected in the grades of incoming students which are summarized below for the most recent year. Also, NRM will be initiating

a Phd program in the near future. The continued strong demand for high quality applicants will provide the basis for continued growth in NRM.

#### Applicant Summary 1990-91

| No. of Applicants | No. Admitted | Average GPA<br>of Admitted | No. Rejected<br>with B ave.<br>or better |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--|
| 138               | 25           | 3.5                        | 79                                       |

#### Rational for Change in Status

##### 1) Growth of Program

With 9.75 faculty, and anticipated growth to 12-15 faculty in the near future, NRM is clearly beyond the size of a program. Indeed, it is already larger than 3 existing departments. NRM is also home department for 10 faculty.

##### 2) Operational Role

Programs on campus normally do not have their own staff. Instead, they rely on faculty and support staff appointed in other departments. The Faculty of Sciences, for example, has eight programs which are fields of study relying on faculty from existing departments. The Arts faculty has four programs which also rely on faculty from other departments.

Unlike other existing programs on campus, NRM functions as a department or school. NRM is the home unit for 10 faculty and has its own Departmental Tenure Committee, its own degree and own graduate admissions committee. Therefore, NRM's operation has evolved from program to departmental or school status.

##### 3) External Attitudes

Programs are considered less substantial than other academic designations. The change of status to a school will enhance the profile of NRM and SFU in environmental and resource issues, and will assist NRM and SFU in taking advantage of the growing opportunities in environmental and resource research.

#### Rational for School versus Departmental Status

There are currently 4 schools at SFU. Although there is no precise definition of a school versus a department, the term school often is used to designate teaching units which have a professional as opposed to strictly academic orientation. The four schools at SFU as well as the schools at UBC (such as School of Nursing, School of Social Work), for example, all have a strong professional orientation. Indeed,

programs which compete directly with NRM such as the School of Community and Regional Planning at UBC are defined as schools to reflect this professional orientation. Consequently, both NRM and SFU will benefit from designating NRM as a school to reflect its professional orientation.

The addition of environment in the new name reflects the increased emphasis on environmental as well as resource management which has developed in NRM. Courses such as environmental impact assessment, law, economics, ecology and policy, for example, focus heavily on environmental management. Therefore, the name change better reflects the actual content of NRM teaching and research.

### Conclusion

NRM has evolved during the last 10 years from a program to a full fledged academic unit housing 10 faculty, over 60 graduate students and 3 support staff. Clearly the program status is no longer appropriate. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that NRM's status be changed to the School of Resource and Environmental Management. This change better reflects NRM's current structure and research focus and the commitment of NRM and SFU to the important area of resource and environmental management.