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## MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION: Senate

TEL

FROM: Peter Keller, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP

RE: Name Change of Geography Major and Certificate in Spatial Information Systems (SCUP 19-04)

DATE: February 11, 2019

TIME

At its February 6, 2019 meeting, SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal for a name change from Geography Major to Human Geography Major in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2019.

SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal for a name change for the Certificate in Spatial Information Systems to Geographic Information Science Certificate in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2019.

**Motion 1:**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change from Geography Major to Human Geography Major in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2019.

**Motion 2:**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change for the Certificate in Spatial Information Systems to Geographic Information Science Certificate in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2019.

c: T. Brennand



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## MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate Committee on University Priorities  
FROM Wade Parkhouse, Chair  
Senate Committee on Undergraduate  
Studies  
RE: Faculty of Environment (SCUS 19-06)

DATE January 11, 2019

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Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of January 10, 2019, gives rise to the following recommendation:

## Motion 1

That SCUP approve the name change from Geography Major to Human Geography Major in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment.

## Motion 2

That SCUP approve the name change for the Certificate in Spatial Information Systems to Geographic Information Science Certificate in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.

**Program Name Change**

<p><b>Name of Faculty and academic unit:</b> Faculty of Environment, Department of Geography</p>
<p><b>Current name of program:</b> Geography Major</p>
<p><b>Proposed program name change:</b> Human Geography Major</p>
<p><b>Rationale for change:</b> The name change communicates the changes to the B.A. program in Geography. Formerly more of a “catch-all” degree in terms of the distribution of requirements across the discipline of geography, the new program focuses on social science, i.e., “human geography,” more explicitly. Other departmental program changes make this change make sense, as outlined in detail in the rationale for the program modification form associated with this name change.</p> <p>In short, with the growth of the B.Env. program, which now stands as the biophysical-social science bridging degree, a role formerly filled by the B.A. in Geography, the changes to the B.A. program allow us to solidify what is in effect a social science degree within the Department of Geography. This matches our research and teaching capacities, as fully 50% of the department are human geography social scientists. Thus, in combination with the B.Sc. programs and the B.Env., we will now offer four clearly distinguished programs: a B.A. social science degree, a B.Env. integrative degree, our current B.Sc. in biophysical dynamics, and our current joint B.Sc. in Geographic Information Systems (with Computing Science).</p> <p>The name change thus provides a more accurate and clear title for the program as designed.</p> <p>Again, please see the detailed rationale attached to the program modification paperwork for the B.A.</p>
<p><b>Effective term and year:</b> Fall 2019</p>
<p><b>The following <u>credential(s)</u> will be affected by this change:</b> BAENV GEOGMAJ</p>



**Calendar Change:** "to" and "from" sections are not required. All deletions should be crossed out as follows: ~~sample~~. All additions should be marked by a **bold**.

**Human** Geography Major  
BACHELOR OF ARTS  
Students must complete 120 units including 45 upper division units.

Transfer students may enter the program before fulfilling all lower division requirements. See the advisor as soon as possible about program entry.

Students should consult with the advisor when formally declaring a **human** geography major, or risk prolonging their program.



Program Name Change

<p><b>Name of Faculty and academic unit:</b></p> <p>Environment Department of Geography</p>
<p><b>Current name of program:</b></p> <p>Certificate in Spatial Information Systems</p>
<p><b>Proposed program name change:</b></p> <p>Geographic Information Science Certificate</p>
<p><b>Rationale for change:</b></p> <p>Rationale for change:</p> <p>(a) to reduce the length and credit requirements of the program to match SFU’s directive that certificates are oriented toward lower division courses, and to increase accessibility and flexibility by enabling smoother and simpler movement through the certificate program. This is also intended to increase enrolments in the certificate, since existing courses are increasingly required of other majors in the faculty (e.g. B.Sc. in ENVS, B.Env.);</p> <p>(b) to remove obstacles to completion (400-level course in particular);</p> <p>(c) clarify student skill set for employers; feedback from employers through our Co-op Co-ordinator is that the current title (“Spatial Information Systems” or “SIS”) is unrecognizable and does not communicate a student’s technical capacity. The Co-op Co-ordinator already has students add “GIS” to the certificate name on job applications to try to address this problem, thus the name change addresses this communication problem for job search;</p> <p>(d) to attract more students to the program, by naming the program with the common term “GIS” with which more students will be familiar, thus increasing enrolments further;</p> <p>(e) the certificate was created before the COMPSCI-GEOG joint B.Sc. in GIS, and no longer needs to stand as a full GIS program.</p>
<p><b>Effective term and year:</b></p> <p>Fall 2019</p>
<p><b>The following <u>credential</u>(s) will be affected by this change:</b></p> <p>Certificate in Spatial Information Systems</p>



**Calendar Change:** "to" and "from" sections are not required. All deletions should be crossed out as follows: ~~sample~~. All additions should be marked by a **bold**.

~~Spatial~~ **Geographic** Information ~~Systems~~ **Science**  
CERTIFICATE  
Admission Requirements