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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION: Senate

TEL

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Keller".

RE: Suspension of Admission to the Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Specialty Major and Honours Programs (SCUP 18-43)

DATE: December 11, 2018

TIME

At its November 21, 2018 meeting, SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal to suspend admission to the Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Specialty Major and Honours programs in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Summer 2019.

Motion:

That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Specialty Major and Honours programs in the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment, effective Summer 2019.

c: T. Brennand



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION

Senate Committee on University Priorities

DATE November 2, 2018

FROM

Wade Parkhouse, Chair
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

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RE:

Faculty of Environment (SCUS 18-76)

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of November 1, 2018, gives rise to the following recommendations:

Motion:

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the suspension of admission to the Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Specialty Major and Honours programs in the department of Geography within the Faculty of Environment.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.



Proposal to suspend admissions to a program

BA (Environmental Specialty)

NOTE: Suspension of admissions to a program does not result in the termination of a program. After a program has been suspended for at least two semesters, an academic unit follows the process to terminate the program. Or, if no students are currently enrolled in the program, academic units can consider the fast track option.

1. All impacted credentials, levels and categories of the degree, and specific discipline or field of study
 - BA Environmental Specialty Major
 - BA Environmental Specialty Honours
2. Location of the program
Burnaby
3. Faculty(ies), Department(s), or School(s) offering the program
Department of Geography
4. Proposed date for suspension
SUMMER 2019
5. Reasons for suspension of admissions:
 - Declining enrollment demand relative to a new, similar, program (BEnv GES) which was recently became a Geography program, having originally been governed at the Faculty (FENV) level.
 - Curricular issues – The BA (EGEO) is very close to the BEnv GES and causes confusion among students as well as challenges for scheduling courses.
 - See the Appendix for a full rationale including data.
6. Plan for suspension:

February 2016



a) Steps taken to consult with students:

Students have been consulted in a face-to-face meeting and through an online survey (see Appendix).

b) Steps taken to consult with impacted instructors and staff:

Discussions have been held in departmental meetings and a retreat, with the Appended document as the basis for discussion. The Department voted in Spring 2018 to suspend admissions.

c) Steps taken to ensure students in the program have the opportunity to complete the program:

Courses are not being deleted and will continue to be offered (since they are part of other programs as well). The Undergraduate advisors are aware of the change and will be attentive to student concerns and problems as they continue through the program.

d) Confirmation of consultation with other impacted departments and faculties:

N/A

7. Draft Calendar entry detailing suspension of admissions to the program:

Once suspension of admissions has been approved by FENV UCC and SCUS, a notation can be placed in the SFU calendar with wording proposed as follows –

Admission to the Environmental Specialty Major and Honours programs have been suspended effective (Date).

8. Name, title, phone number and email address of the institutional contact person in case more information is required (normally, the Dean of the Faculty in which the program is housed):

Prof. Tracy Brennand
Chair, Department of Geography
778-782-3718
tabrenna@sfu.ca



A proposal to delete (or temporarily suspend) the BA (Environmental Specialty) program

Eugene McCann, UGSC Chair.

The UGSC is making the following motion to the Department Meeting:

The BA (Environmental Specialty) should be deleted and its existing content should be borne in mind during an ongoing consideration of revisions to the BEnv (GES).

These are the reasons:

1. We need to clarify the human-environment element of our programs.

We currently offer 5 degrees:

BA (Human Geog.) *Assuming eventual approval by the dept.	Clearly defined social science degree
BA (EGeo) (Human-Environment)	} A muddy middle (a muddle) of Hum-Env degrees
BEnv (Global Environmental Systems) (Human-Environment)	
BSc (GIS)	} Two clearly distinct BScs
BSc (Physical Geography)	

If we are to make our program offerings as intelligible and attractive as possible to students, we need to avoid confusion. Shifting to 4 degrees – one social science, one human-environment, and two distinct science degrees – brings clarity to our offerings.

2. The BA (EGeo) is redundant.

The BA (EGeo)'s requirements include 35 courses. Of those, 27 (77%) are also listed in the BEnv's requirements. The following 8 courses in the BA (EGeo) requirements do not appear in the BEnv:

- GEOG 377 - Environmental History (4)
- GEOG 318 - Soils in Our Environment (4)
- GEOG 355 - Geographical Information Science II (4)
- GEOG 385 - Agriculture and the Environment (Food & the City) (4)
- GEOG 432 - Problems in Environmental History (4)
- GEOG 449 - City and Environment (4)
- GEOG 445 - Resource Planning (4)
- REM 445 - Environmental Risk Assessment (3)

Of these 8 courses, 318 is unlikely to run in the near future due to low faculty complement and 445 is likely to be mothballed. Therefore, if the BA (EGeo) were allowed to continue,

February 2016

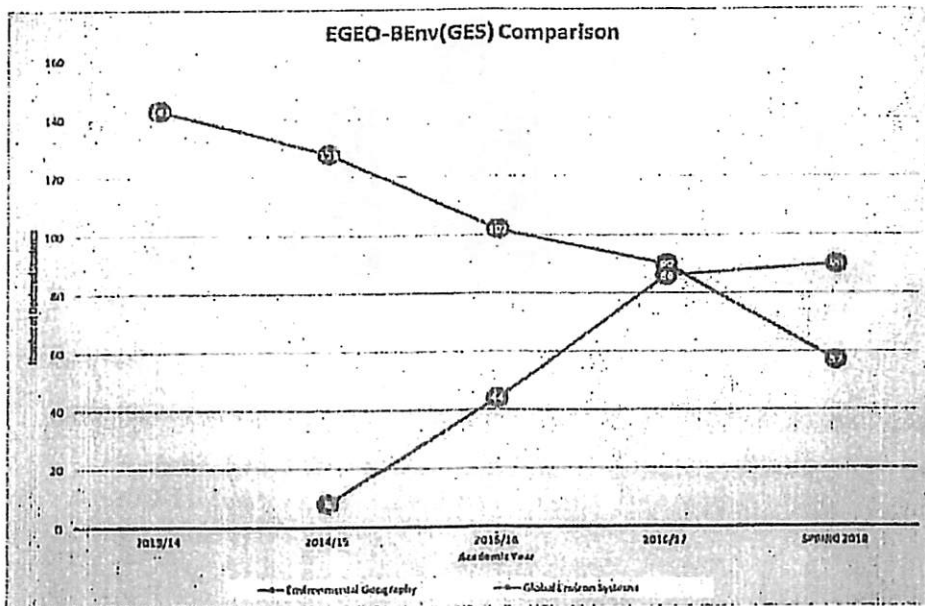


only 6 courses would distinguish it from the BEnv. The UGSC believes that all 6 of these could possibly be included in a revised GES.

The UGSC plans to explore revisions to the GES, now that we govern the degree. If the BA (EGeo) is deleted, the 6 courses above will be considered for inclusion in a revised BEnv.

3. The BA (EGeo) is not as popular or as valued as the BEnv.

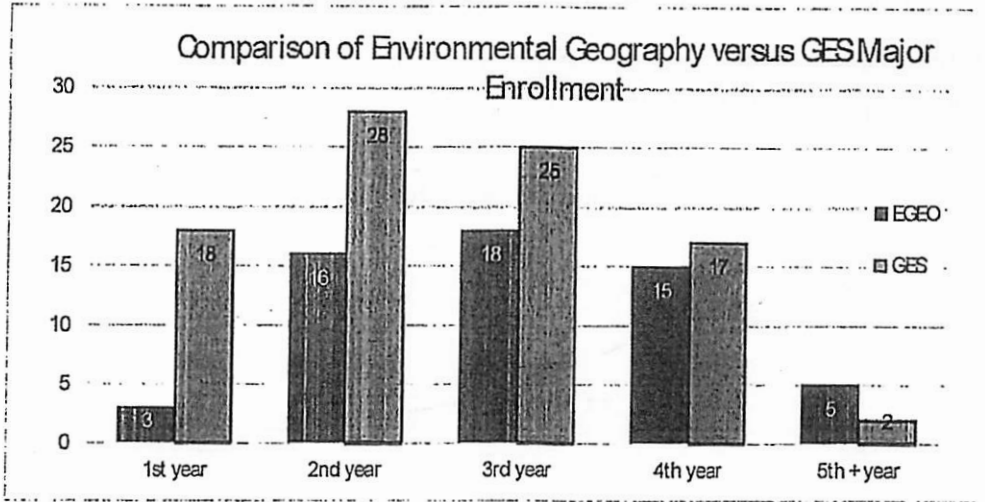
The BA (EGeo) currently has 57 majors, down from 143 5 years ago. The GES currently has 90 majors, up from 8 in its first year (2014/15). The trends are clear.



Anke Baker

Furthermore, of the students currently in the BA (EGeo), 19 are LD; 38 are UD. 46 GES students are LD, while 44 are UD. The graph below suggests that many of those still in the BA (EGeo) might be staying in it as a matter of inertia. Moreover, the advisors believe that, of the 16 students in 2nd Year in the BA (EGeo), many are only now finding out about the GES. They have recently met with some newer students who have either switched to, or inquired about the GES program. The students seem to be voting with their feet.

EGeo & GES Enrolment, Spring 2018



Evon Khor

Over the last weeks, the UGSC has consulted with the students in the two programs:

- Feb. 1st. Face-to-Face consultation. 4 students. 2 BA (EGeo), 2 BEnv.
- Feb. 5th - 15th. Online consultations. 17 students. 6 BA (EGeo), 11 BEnv.

Findings:

- The BEnv name is an attractant.
- There is some sense that having a BA ("An Arts degree") is not as good as a BEnv in terms of its connotations on the job market.
- BEnv students are more satisfied with their degree than BAs. And BEnv are more likely to say that their degree is distinct from the BA than vice versa.
- Three quarters of BAs saw no difference between the two degrees; Two thirds of the BEnvs said they were different.
- Three quarters of BAs say the two degrees could be combined; just under two thirds of BEnv students agree. Those who made comments in the face-to-face consultation or who wrote comments in the survey saw no difference.

February 2016