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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** March 14, 2011
FROM Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP **PAGES** 1/1
RE: Faculty of Environment: External Review Update for the Environmental Science Program (SCUP 11-10)

At its March 9, 2011 meeting SCUP reviewed the External Review Update for the Environmental Science Program within the Faculty of Environment. The report is attached for the information of Senate.

encl.

c: B. Krane



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND ASSOCIATE PROVOST

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ATTENTION Jon Driver, Chair, SCUP
FROM Bill Krane, Associate Vice-President, Academic
and Associate Provost
RE: External Review Update – Environmental Science Program

DATE February 28, 2011
PAGES 1/1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bill Krane', written over a horizontal line.

The External Review of the Environmental Science Program was undertaken in March 2006. According to the procedures established by SCUP, the Program is required to submit an update describing its progress in implementing Senate's recommendations, which were derived from the External Review report, in the fourth year following the start of the External Review process. Please find attached this update, together with a copy of the recommendations approved by Senate for action.

Based on this midterm report, my assessment is that the Environmental Science Program has made substantial progress toward implementing Senate's recommendations.



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Glynn Nicholls, Director,
Academic Planning & Budgeting

DATE February 18, 2011

FROM Leah Bendell, Director
Environmental Science Program

RE: Final Progress Report – 2006 External Review of the Environmental Science
Program

As requested, please find a short progress report on the actions that the Environmental Science program has taken in response to the recommendations approved by Senate on March 5 2007.

In order as presented in your memo of January 21 2011:

1) Review of the Faculty and Department Structure

Since the inception of the Faculty of Environment (FEnv), the EVSC Program, Geography, REM, Centre for Sustainable Community Development and the Development and Sustainability Program have been members of the Deans Advisory Council and the FEnv curriculum committee. Hence the units comprising the Faculty of Environment have participated fully in discussions reviewing and modifying, if necessary, the structure of the Faculty. This is an ongoing process as the faculty continues to develop and grow.

2) Program Curriculum

In May 2010, the Dean of FEnv created a special committee to undertake the redevelopment of the Environmental Science Program. This Curriculum Redevelopment Committee was chaired by Dr. Alton Harestad, past Director of the Environmental Science Program. Over the course of 8 months, the committee, based on the original program, recommendations of the Environmental Science redevelopment committee chaired by John Pierce, summer 2009, and recommendations of the external review of 2006, created an exciting and forward looking redesign of the Environmental Science Program.

- Within this new program, there is an identifiable core of four dedicated Environmental Science courses (EVSC100, EVSC205, EVSC399 and EVSC499), which all environmental science students are required to take. This grouping of courses is structured to create a student “cohort” which begins in first year and

progresses through the series of courses over the four-year degree. This Environmental Science student cohort will provide opportunity for building linkages among EVSC students and will contribute to a strong, united student body that will enhance learning, academic and social interactions, and create an identity for Environmental Science students.

- The redeveloped program has greatly increased flexibility, and course requirements are no longer “over-prescribed”. The number of courses that are student choices is in line with most other Majors within the Faculties of Environment and Science.
- We are now in the process of developing Terms of Reference for the EVSC steering committee which has as one of its guiding principles that all participants are there to support and nurture the interdisciplinary program in Environmental Science.
- The Curriculum Redevelopment Committee included an upper division EVSC student. This student representation provided an extremely important contribution throughout the development of the new Environmental Science curriculum. Indeed, in some deliberations, it was the voice of the student representative that kept faculty members on track i.e., ensuring that the program was being developed with student interests and needs in mind. We will continue to have student representation on important committees such as the Environmental Science Steering Committee now under development.

3) Marketing and Visibility

With the creation of the Faculty of Environment, the Environmental Science Program now has the excellent administrative support of several individuals as compared to previously where it relied on one-part time position to meet its administrative needs. We now are supported by a Recruitment and Community Liaison Manager, an Academic Programs Coordinator, and a Curriculum and Academic Planning Manager, all of whom assist in marketing and raising the visibility of the interdisciplinary program in Environmental Science offered by the Faculty of Environment. The program now has a dedicated website that is maintained and continually updated by the Academic Programs Coordinator and the Director of the Environmental Science Program.

4) Space

Since moving into the Faculty of Environment the Recruitment and Community Liaison Manager has been able to secure space for the Environmental Science Student Union. We will continue to seek appropriate space for the program as its needs require.

Our Future

We are about to embark on what we believe to be an exciting and innovative redesigned program in Environmental Science. For example, the program includes a new area of concentration (Water Science), for which students have already expressed a keen interest. The program will continue to ensure students receive a solid science core on which their area of concentration is based, but they will now have exposure to a greater breadth of perspectives on the Environment, in line with the inter-disciplinary mandate of the new Faculty of Environment (e.g. newly developed courses in ecological economics, ethics and law related to the environment). As the program matures we expect that other areas of concentration could be developed, such as Environmental Health Science and possibly First Nations and the Environment. It is an exciting

and innovative time within the Faculty of Environment and as Director, I look forward to the implementation of the redeveloped program.

I trust these actions have addressed the recommendations of Senate.

Regards

Leah Bendell



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Leah Bendall, Program Director
Environmental Science Program
DATE January 21, 2011

FROM Glynn Nicholls, Director, Academic Planning
and Budgeting
PAGES 1/2

RE: External Review Update for the Environmental Science Program

CC J. Pierce, D. Knowler

In 2004 the Senate Committee on University Priorities endorsed procedures for reviewing a department's progress in implementing the recommendations approved by Senate as a consequence of the previous external review (which takes place normally once every seven years). The last review of your Department occurred in March, 2006. This is to advise you that the External Review Update for the Environmental Science Program is due in the 2010/2011 academic year.

On March 5, 2007 Senate approved the following recommendations:

1. Faculty & Department Structure

- The Program, the Department of Geography and the School of Resource and Environmental Management should participate fully in the process initiated by the Vice President Academic for reviewing the effectiveness of the Faculty structure at SFU.

2. Program Curriculum

- Review the entire Program to ensure that it recognizes national initiatives in terms of curriculum goals and prepares its students to become effective environmental problem-solvers and employable professionals.
- Consider the possibility of the curriculum containing an identifiable core which includes at least one or two courses per year with an Environmental Science label, beginning in the first year.
- Review the high number of prescribed courses, which create scheduling problems for students, with a view to increasing the options for both independent study and field experience for students.
- Ensure that faculty appointed to the Steering Committee play a positive role as departmental representatives and as participants in the interdisciplinary Program.
- Involve students in the formation of a curriculum committee.

3. Marketing & Visibility

- Consider ways of marketing the Program more aggressively as an alternative for Science students and exposing the innovative and interdisciplinary graduate Programs in the environmental field, both domestically and internationally.
- Redesign the Program web site to indicate that it is a major offering at SFU.
- Bring to the attention of the students the increasing requirements by the profession for certification as environmental practitioners.

4. Space

- Review the Program space requirements as space inventory becomes available and ensure faculty and students are kept abreast of progress being made in this regard.

Please provide a **one to two page** progress report by Friday, February 18, 2011 on the actions that your Department has taken in response to the recommendations approved by Senate on March 5, 2007.

Please contact Glynn Nicholls at 26702, gnicholl@sfu.ca or Bal Basi at 27676, bbasi@sfu.ca if you have any questions or concerns regarding the external review update process.

Thank you.