4-19-2007

Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Natural Resources, April 19, 2007 - New Emphases within the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies

Utah State University

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AGENDA

MEETING OF THE 
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS 
TO BE HELD AT 
DIXIE STATE COLLEGE, ST. GEORGE, UTAH 

April 19 – 20, 2007
iii. Change the Name of the majors, minor, emphasis, and specialization in the Department of Business Information Systems

**Request:** The Department of Business Information Systems requests permission to change the name of the majors, minor, emphasis, and specialization from Business Information Systems to Management Information Systems. The specific name changes are: 1) Bachelor of science (BS), bachelor of arts (BA), and master of science (MS) in business information systems to management information systems, 2) Interdepartmental doctor of philosophy (PhD) in education and doctor of education (EdD) with a specialization in business information systems to specialization in management information systems, 3) Graduate emphasis in MS degree from business information systems to management information systems, and 4) Minor in business information systems to management information systems.

**Need:** Management information systems (MIS) is a widely adopted major and minor name by leading information systems programs. Top programs using the MIS name include the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia, Eller College of Business at the University of Arizona, Management Information Systems (MIS) University of Texas at Austin, University of Virginia, and Fox School of Business at Temple University.

The department believes the MIS name represents a standard of high quality and sends a signal to potential employers and donors that our department is committed to high-end research and teaching. Management information systems has a broad strategic appeal. The change from BIS to MIS is necessary, as the department remains committed to offering a quality information systems program at the bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels.

**Institutional Impact:** Although a name change may appear to be a minor change, the department believes there is great potential for positive institutional impact. Students, faculty, and development efforts will benefit from these degree name changes.

Faculty recognize the importance of the MIS name change. During the departmental faculty meeting on February 15, 2006 the faculty unanimously agreed to the name change.

**Finances:** The program name changes do not require additional funding or staffing changes. However, the department believes the name changes will help facilitate departmental and college goals related to student recruitment, student placement, as well as development efforts.

iv. New Emphases within the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies

**Request:** Utah State University requests approval to create seven new emphases within the existing Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, effective Spring 2007. These emphases were approved by the USU Board of Trustees on January 12, 2007. The Department of Environment and Society administers the B.S. in Environmental Studies. Currently the curriculum for this degree requires students to devote at least 15 credits toward a self-designed “specialization option” that reflects their educational goals and career interests.
The Environmental Studies curriculum is designed for students who wish to acquire a broad understanding of natural resources and human-environment relationships as well as the technical background needed to effectively influence natural resource and environmental management. As there are many ways to do this – e.g., as a communications specialist, environmental compliance specialist, educator, attorney, town and regional planner, business entrepreneur, and more – the degree has allowed students to design a path that makes sense for their particular needs. However it has become clear that most (but not all) students wish to follow a few similar paths. Moreover, they would like more guidance about which courses would best help them achieve their goals. And when they have earned their degrees, they would like their academic records to clearly indicate the paths they have prepared to take. Therefore the Department of Environment and Society faculty have identified specific courses that would most benefit students with particular goals.

The department proposes to create a series of specific emphases that would represent typical programs of study taken by Environmental Studies majors. The proposed emphases include:

**Business and Economics**

**Need:** The emphasis in Business and Economics is designed for students who hope to work in the private sector in a field related to natural resources and the environment (as a small business owner, hunting or fishing outfitter, environmental consultant, etc.). It includes courses in marketing, organizational management, law and economics that provide additional depth in these aspects of the business world. Students will be required to take 15 or more credits from the following list of courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA 3500</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Marketing</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 3170</td>
<td>Law and Economics</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 5560</td>
<td>Natural Resource and Environmental Economics</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 5550</td>
<td>Sustainable Development</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHR 2050</td>
<td>Legal and Ethical Environment of Business</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHR 3110</td>
<td>Managing and Organizing People</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Institutional Impact:** The Department of Environment and Society indicates the creation of this emphasis will better reflect one of the chief educational goals of the Environmental Studies degree, thereby improving the degree’s visibility and clarifying its image and meaning within the university. Students will benefit by an emphasis that more clearly identifies the focus of their undergraduate curriculum to prospective employers or graduate degree programs.

No new courses will be created as a result of this emphasis, and no new faculty, facilities or equipment will be required. The proposal should have no significant institutional impact within the College, Utah State University, or any other undergraduate programs in the Utah Higher Education System.

**Finances:** As this proposed emphasis involves only a clustering of existing course, there is no anticipated budgetary impact.

**Communications**

**Need:** The emphasis in Communications is designed for students whose academic interests and career goals are focused on work as an environmental writer or educator, visitor services professional, or
interpreter and who have chosen the Environmental Studies degree in order to gain a solid grounding in human-environment interactions. Coursework is intended to provide depth in communications skills beyond that offered by the major and general education courses. Students will be required to take 15 or more credits from the following list of courses:

- **ENGL 3440** Creative Nonfiction Writing (3 cr.)
- **ENGL 4630** American Nature Writers (3 cr.)
- **ENVS 4600** Natural Resource Interpretation (3 cr.)
- **ENVS 5110** Environmental Education (3 cr.)
- **JCOM 1130** Beginning Newswriting for the Mass Media (3 cr.)
- **SPCH 5250** Environmental Rhetoric (3 cr.)

**Institutional Impact:** The Department of Environment and Society indicates the creation of this emphasis will better reflect one of the chief educational goals of the Environmental Studies degree, thereby improving the degree’s visibility and clarifying its image and meaning within the university. Students will benefit by an emphasis that more clearly identifies the focus of their undergraduate curriculum to prospective employers or graduate degree programs.

No new courses will be created as a result of this emphasis, and no new faculty, facilities or equipment will be required. The proposal should have no significant institutional impact within the College, Utah State University, or any other undergraduate programs in the Utah Higher Education System.

**Finances:** As this proposed emphasis involves only a clustering of existing courses, there is no anticipated budgetary impact.

### Environmental Policy

**Need:** The emphasis in Environmental Policy is designed for students who plan to pursue a career in law, politics, or advocacy on behalf of issues related to natural resources and the environment. It includes courses in public land and natural resources policy and law, conflict management, sustainable development, and political science. Students will be required to take 15 or more credits from the following list of courses:

- **ENVS 4130** Recreation Policy and Planning (3 cr.)
- **ENVS 5300** Natural Resources Law and Policy (2 cr.)
- **ENVS 5320** Water Law and Policy in the United States (3 cr.)
- **ENVS 5550** Sustainable Development (3 cr.)
- **ENVS 5640** Conflict Management in Natural Resources (3 cr.)
- **POLS 5180** Natural Resource Policy (3 cr.)

**Institutional Impact:** The Department of Environment and Society indicates the creation of this emphasis will better reflect one of the chief educational goals of the Environmental Studies degree, thereby improving the degree’s visibility and clarifying its image and meaning within the university. Students will benefit by an emphasis that more clearly identifies the focus of their undergraduate curriculum to prospective employers or graduate degree programs.
No new courses will be created as a result of this emphasis, and no new faculty, facilities or equipment will be required. The proposal should have no significant institutional impact within the College, Utah State University, or any other undergraduate programs in the Utah Higher Education System.

**Finances:** As this proposed emphasis involves only a clustering of existing courses, there is no anticipated budgetary impact.

### Human Impacts on the Environment

**Need:** The emphasis in Human Impacts on the Environment focuses on coursework that helps students understand how human activities both currently and in the past have come to affect the Earth’s biological and physical components, and to provide a solid foundation in understanding tools and programs that are being developed to manage and mitigate those impacts. It is designed for students interested in careers in education, non-governmental organizations, or advocacy, or who plan to attend a graduate program in environmental science and management. Students will be required to take 15 or more credits from the following list of courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 5550</td>
<td>Sustainable Development</td>
<td>(3 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 5570</td>
<td>Sustainable Living</td>
<td>(3 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEO 3100</td>
<td>Natural Disasters</td>
<td>(3 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 3950</td>
<td>Environmental History</td>
<td>(3 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 4620</td>
<td>Sociology of the Environment and Natural Resources</td>
<td>(3 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 3820</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>(3 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILD 4600</td>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td>(3 cr.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Institutional Impact:** The Department of Environment and Society indicates the creation of this emphasis will better reflect one of the chief educational goals of the Environmental Studies degree, thereby improving the degree’s visibility and clarifying its image and meaning within the university. Students will benefit by an emphasis that more clearly identifies the focus of their undergraduate curriculum to prospective employers or graduate degree programs.

No new courses will be created as a result of this emphasis, and no new faculty, facilities or equipment will be required. The proposal should have no significant institutional impact within the College, Utah State University, or any other undergraduate programs in the Utah Higher Education System.

**Finances:** As this proposed emphasis involves only a clustering of existing courses, there is no anticipated budgetary impact.

### International Emphasis

**Need:** The International emphasis in Environmental Studies is designed for students who plan to pursue a career in international development and/or services related to environmental protection, especially with non-profit or governmental organizations working in the developing world. Courses provide additional depth in human geography, international sustainable development, and global environmental politics. Students will be required to take 15 or more credits from the following list of courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 2010</td>
<td>People of the Contemporary World</td>
<td>(3 cr.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ECON 5400: International and Development Economics (4 cr.)

### ENVS 5550: Sustainable Development (3 cr.)

### GEOG 1400: World Regional Geography (3 cr.)

### GEOG 4200: Regional Geography (3 cr.)

### GEOG 6650: Developing Societies (3 cr.)

### SOC 4730: Women in International Development (3 cr.)

#### Institutional Impact:
The Department of Environment and Society indicates the creation of this emphasis will better reflect one of the chief educational goals of the Environmental Studies degree, thereby improving the degree’s visibility and clarifying its image and meaning within the university. Students will benefit by an emphasis that more clearly identifies the focus of their undergraduate curriculum to prospective employers or graduate degree programs.

No new courses will be created as a result of this emphasis, and no new faculty, facilities or equipment will be required. The proposal should have no significant institutional impact within the College, Utah State University, or any other undergraduate programs in the Utah Higher Education System.

#### Finances:
As this proposed emphasis involves only a clustering of existing courses, there is no anticipated budgetary impact.

### Planning and Analysis

#### Need:
The emphasis in Planning and Analysis is designed to provide additional depth for students who are interested in pursuing careers in bioregional, municipal, or other types of planning. It combines coursework in geographic information analysis with specific courses in planning, site design, conflict management and community development. Students will be required to take 15 or more credits from the following list of courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WATS 4930</td>
<td>Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 5330</td>
<td>Large River Management</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATS 5930</td>
<td>Geographic Information Analysis</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 5010</td>
<td>Biogeography</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 5640</td>
<td>Conflict Management in Natural Resources</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEO 3100</td>
<td>Natural Disasters</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 3610</td>
<td>Geography of Rural/Urban Planning</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAEP 3700</td>
<td>City and Regional Planning</td>
<td>3 cr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Institutional Impact:
The Department of Environment and Society indicates the creation of this emphasis will better reflect one of the chief educational goals of the Environmental Studies degree, thereby improving the degree’s visibility and clarifying its image and meaning within the university. Students will benefit by an emphasis that more clearly identifies the focus of their undergraduate curriculum to prospective employers or graduate degree programs.

No new courses will be created as a result of this emphasis, and no new faculty, facilities or equipment will be required. The proposal should have no significant institutional impact within the College, Utah State University, or any other undergraduate programs in the Utah Higher Education System.
**Finances:** As this proposed emphasis involves only a clustering of existing courses, there is no anticipated budgetary impact.

**Environmental Stewardship**

**Need:** The emphasis in Environmental Stewardship is designed for students whose academic interests and/or career goals do not fall into the six primary emphases in Environmental Studies. While students will be required to complete 15 credits in addition to the Environmental Studies disciplinary core, no specific courses are prescribed. Instead, students will develop a customized emphasis in consultation with a faculty advisor, and must complete a form describing the intent of the emphasis, which specific courses will be included, and how they relate to the student’s goals. A university-approved minor may be used to meet this requirement.

**Institutional Impact:** The Department of Environment and Society believes the creation of this emphasis will better reflect one of the chief educational goals of the Environmental Studies degree, thereby improving the degree’s visibility and clarifying its image and meaning within the university. Students will benefit by an emphasis that more clearly identifies the focus of their undergraduate curriculum to prospective employers or graduate degree programs.

No new courses will be created as a result of this emphasis, and no new faculty, facilities or equipment will be required. The proposal should have no significant institutional impact within the College, Utah State University, or any other undergraduate programs in the Utah Higher Education System.

**Finances:** As this proposed emphasis involves only a clustering of existing courses, there is no anticipated budgetary impact.

v. **New Emphases in Bachelor of Science in Geography**

**Request:** Utah State University requests approval to create four new emphases within the existing Bachelor of Science degree in Geography, effective Spring 2007. The proposed new emphases are (1) Cultural/Social Geography, (2) Human Impacts on the Environment, (3) Planning and Analysis, and (4) Geographic Perspectives. These emphases were approved by the Utah State University Board of Trustees on January 12, 2007. The Department of Environment and Society administers the B.S. in Geography. Currently the curriculum for this degree requires students to devote at least 12 credits toward a self-designed “specialization option” that reflects their educational goals and career interests. The department proposes to create a series of specific emphases that would represent typical programs of study taken by Geography majors.

The Geography curriculum provides a broad background in the basic themes of geography – human (cultural), physical, and regional geography – with a particular focus on the geography of environment and earth resources and on the technical skills of geographic information analysis. Students also are required to acquire depth of knowledge in a particular regional or technical area of geography of interest to them. Experience has taught us that most students wish to follow a few specific career paths, and they would like specific guidance about which courses will best help them follow those paths. Moreover, when they have earned the Bachelor’s degree, they would like their academic records to clearly indicate the paths they