



*Please forward
David W. Pershing
2/11/11*

*Approved
Michael Ky &
2/13/11*

February 11, 2011

David W. Pershing
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
205 Park
Campus

Dear Vice President Pershing,

Enclosed is the proposal for the Name Change for the Environmental Studies Program which was approved by the Graduate Council on January 31, 2011. Included in this packet are the proposal and supporting letters.

Please forward this packet to the Academic Senate to be placed on the information calendar for the next meeting of the Senate once you have approved this.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Wight
Dean, The Graduate School

Request to change the name of the Environmental Studies Program
to the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program

Submitted by

Daniel McCool, Director of the Environmental Studies Program
October, 2010

Section I: Request

The Environmental Studies Program, in the College of Social and Behavioral Science, requests a name change to "The Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program." This request applies to both the name of the program, and the name of the degree. The name change reflects changes in the curriculum and the relevant literature, and thus makes the program's name more accurate, more inclusive, and more contemporary. The name change would impact current activities by encouraging faculty and students to be part of the growing trend of emphasizing sustainability in teaching and research. It would also positively impact the University's effort to meet the mandate established in the Climate Action Plan, which requires the University to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum.

Section II: Need

In recent years the literature on environmental issues has focused increasingly on sustainability. This emphasis is reflected in the course content of the curriculum of the inter-disciplinary Environmental Studies Program. All of the required ENVST courses for the major already have the word "Sustainability" in their titles. The research presented by faculty in ENVST 2100 (Introduction to Environmental and Sustainability Studies) and other courses in the curriculum often focuses on sustainability. And, sustainability has become an important issue on college campuses throughout the U. S. and other countries.

Also, sustainability is an inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary issue that involves virtually every department and discipline on campus. Thus, it matches the inter-disciplinary nature of the Environmental Studies Program. In addition, because so many of the program's classes now cover sustainability, the proposed name is a more accurate reflection of the education students receive when they earn an Environmental Studies degree.

Sustainability is a growing part of the literature on environmental issues. The new journal, *Sustainability: The Journal of Record*, explains why: "[this journal] meets the needs of the rapidly growing community of professionals in academia, industry, policy, and government who have the responsibility and commitment to advancing one of the major imperatives of this young century"

(<http://www.liebertpub.com/products/product.aspx?pid=252>). There are numerous academic and practitioner journals dedicated to this issue, including:

- > *Sustainability: An Open Access Journal*
- > *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*
- > *The International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*
- > *International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*
- > *The Journal of Sustainability*
- > *Sustainable Industries*

The emphasis on sustainability is also reflective of curricular changes at other universities; schools, departments, inter-disciplinary programs and centers have been created that focus on sustainability. For example, the University of New Haven recently created a Bachelor's degree in Sustainability Studies; another new program is the M.S. in "Sustainable Development and Climate Change" at Antioch University. Other examples are:

- > The School of Sustainability and the Environment, Chatham University
- > The Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, Dickinson College
- > The Shell Center for Sustainability, Rice University
- > The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability, and Environment Science, the University of the District of Columbia
- > The Global Institute of Sustainability, Arizona State University
- > The School of Earth Sciences and Environmental Sustainability, Northern Arizona University

As far as been found, there are no other academic programs at the University of Utah or other Utah institutions that have the word "Sustainability" in their title. Utah State University has a policy to "make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experiences for all students at USU and sister campuses" (<http://sustainability.usu.edu/html/sustainability/education/>). Weber State University has a new Bachelor of Integrated Studies in Environmental Studies, and an Environmental Studies minor.

Section III: Institutional Impact

It is believed that the impact on enrollment will be positive. The Environmental Studies Program currently has about 280 majors, which is more than double the enrollment of five years ago. Adding the word "Sustainability" to the degree will make the program more attractive, more inclusive, and more contemporary, thus increasing its appeal to students. Students are increasingly exposed to the concept of sustainability, through news media, government, social media, their academic work, and the sustainability efforts of the University. Recently a director at EPA pointed out that sustainability is their primary goal: "Attaining a society that can meet its needs while preserving the ability of future generations to meet their needs is our primary goal" (<http://www.epa.gov/ORD/html/anastas/path-forward.htm>). There is a prominent think tank called the Sustainability Institute (<http://www.sustainer.org/>). Even Walmart has a sustainability program (<http://walmartstores.com/Sustainability/>). And many college campuses are now focusing on sustainability as a primary operational goal (<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>).

The proposed change will not affect existing administrative structures. The program, and its staff, are already in place. It will also not affect equipment needs or physical facilities of the program, with the exception that increased enrollments may necessitate larger classrooms for the courses in our curriculum.

Section IV: Finances

No budgetary impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed change; it will not increase the program's costs.



Edward Barbanell, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies
Sterling Sill Center
195 S Central Campus Dr Rm 00132
Salt Lake City, Ut 84112

Re: Name Change for Environmental Studies

Ed:

I am writing to express my support for The Environmental Studies Program name change to "*The Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program*."

The current "environmental" label has the disadvantage of limiting the conversation to natural capital alone. The addition of "sustainability" into the title will convey the social and economic aspects of inter-disciplinary thinking and makes the program's name more accurate and inclusive.

In addition, I believe it will positively impact the University's effort to meet the goals established in the University's "*Energy and Environmental Stewardship Initiative: 2010 Climate Action Plan*" to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum and to further the awareness of systems-thinking across all aspects of human activity.

Sincerely,
Myron

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Myron', followed by a long horizontal line.

Myron Willson
Director, Office of Sustainability
University of Utah
Annex D Wing, Room 1024
1901 E. South Campus Dr.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
(801) 585-3173

November 15, 2010

Undergraduate Studies Office
Attention: Ed Barbanell

Re: Support for request to change the name of the Environmental Studies Program to the
Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program

I am pleased to offer my full and enthusiastic support for the request to change the name of the Environmental Studies Program to the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program. The proposed name change will recognize and reflect the true depth and breadth of the program. As the proposal effectively demonstrates, the program has considerable reach in its curriculum, a reach that should be accurately reflected by its name. The name change will impact current activities by encouraging faculty and students to be part of the growing trend of emphasizing sustainability in teaching and research. Sustainability has become a central part of curriculum offerings and will undoubtedly continue to grow. In the end, the true beneficiaries of the name change are our students as they'll be able to communicate clearly with potential graduate schools and employers the nature of their expertise. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. David Rudd', with a stylized, elongated horizontal stroke at the end.

M. David Rudd
Dean