# Memorandum of Understanding Environmental Studies Program Undergraduate Council Review

This memorandum of understanding is a summary of decisions reached at a wrap-up meeting on October 20, 2010 and concludes the Undergraduate Council Review of the Environmental Studies Program. David W. Pershing, Senior Vice President of Academic affairs; John Francis, Senior Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs; Steve Roens, Senior Associate Dean of the Office of Undergraduate Studies; M. David Rudd, Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science; Daniel McCool, Director and Natasha McVaugh-Seegert, Associate Director of the Environmental Studies Program, were present.

The discussion centered on, but was not limited to, recommendations included in the Undergraduate Council Review completed on August 16 2010.

# Recommendation 1. Additional Space for the Program

The Program requires more adequate office space. This issue has been addressed with three offices in Orson Spencer Hall reassigned to the Environmental Studies Program.

#### Recommendation 2. Name Change

It was recommended that the Environmental Studies Program change its name to the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program to reflect changes in the field and in its courses. The request for this name change has been submitted.

#### Recommendation 3. New Personnel

It was recommended that the Program add new personnel to help with the large number of students who need advising. This issue has been addressed with the hiring of an additional advisor into a half-time position. This solution to the advising issue was made possible in part by the increase in space mentioned under recommendation number 1.

#### Recommendation 4. Release Time for the Program Director

More release time should be provided for the director of the Environmental Studies Program. This issue has been addressed with a release of two courses provided for the director of the program for the coming academic year. This course release will be considered for renewal on an annual basis.

### Recommendation 5. Strategic Plan

It was recommended that a three-person committee be created that would be the strategic plan working group to arrive at a strategic plan for Environmental Studies. This is now in process.

## Recommendation 6. Advisory Board

The current Internal Advisory Board for Environmental Studies should be maintained and should assume a more active role in overseeing the program. This is in process.

## Recommendation 7. Succession of the Directorship of the Program

The Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science and the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs agree that part of the strategic plan for Environmental Studies will be devoted to creating a long term plan for the succession of the directorship and that, as part of this plan, it will be necessary to supply funding for the continuation of the program.

#### Recommendation 8. Staffing and Appointments

As part of the strategic plan, it will be necessary to think through staffing and appointments. The Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science and the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs will work to develop funding for split appointments on a model based on the Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies programs.

This memorandum of understanding is to be followed by annual letters of progress from the Director of the Program to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Letter will be submitted each year until all of the actions in the preceding paragraphs have been addressed.

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