

February 13, 2017

Kristin Lagattuta

Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Letters and Science

RE: Proposal to Establish a Cross-College Major in Earth Systems Science

Dear Kristin:

The proposal to establish a major in Earth Systems Science was forwarded to all standing committees of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate. Three committees responded: Undergraduate Council (UGC), Planning and Budget, and Graduate Council.

While committees acknowledged the potential value of the major, UGC does not endorse it for several reasons. Namely, the proposed major contains few updates to overall curricula, as students would primarily be choosing from existing courses. Similarly, UGC thinks the integration among the subsystems is insufficient, as students themselves would “largely be expected to provide the integration among the subsystems.” UGC also thinks the proposed major is unit heavy and has administrative flaws.

The Davis Division regrets that it cannot approve the proposed major, and will not revisit the proposal unless it is substantially revised to address UGC’s concerns. Please reach out to the Undergraduate Council Analyst, Debbie Stacionis, at dstacionis@ucdavis.edu for any questions regarding updates to the proposal.

Sincerely,



Rachael Goodhue

Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

Professor and Chair, Agricultural and Resource Economics

Enclosed: Davis Division Committee Responses

c: Beth Floyd, Director, Undergraduate Education & Advising, College of Letters and Science
David Osleger, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Dawn Sumner, Chair, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Edwin M. Arevalo, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Debbie Stacionis, Analyst, Undergraduate Council