

April 29, 2014

HARRIS A. LEWIN, VICE CHANCELLOR

Office of Research

RE: Request for Comments on the John Muir Institute of the Environment 15-Year Review

The review committee's 15-year review report on the John Muir Institute of the Environment (JMIE) ORU was forwarded to all Davis Division of the Academic Senate standing committees and Faculty Executive Committees from the Schools and Colleges. Responses were received from Graduate Council and the Committees on Research and Planning and Budget, as well as from the FEC from the College of Letters and Science.

Graduate Council concurs with the external review regarding the various demonstrated successes of the JMIE, including its contributions to graduate student training and career development, and concurs that support for JMIE should be continued. Among the more specific recommendations of the external review, Graduate Council discussed the recommendation that JMIE receive resources for a professional degree program to be offered through an appropriate graduate group. In particular, Graduate Council considered support for a graduate professional degree program in Environmental Policy and Management as a targeted additional investment in JMIE.

The Committee on Research agrees that JMIE is clearly productive in research including publications and obtaining extramural funding. In addition, JMIE is very engaged in graduate student education and serves the interests of many students on campus.

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) requested that Professor Schwartz present on and provide additional information about JMIE to the committee. CPB strongly supports the continuation of JMIE, though at this point JMIE is not well served by the ORU organizational framework. CPB strongly recommends that JMIE take on a much larger role on campus and vastly expand its portfolio.

As part of expanding the vision and scope of JMIE, CPB recommends considering the consolidation of all environmentally-focused ORUs under JMIE. Air quality and renewable energy could reside within JMIE, an ORU that currently houses tremendous strengths in potable water, limited user water provision technologies, and lake water. CPB strongly recommends JMIE be renewed and encourages visionary thinking about its role on campus.

Overall, the Davis Division of the Academic Senate recommends continued support for JMIE as an ORU as well as expanding JMIE's portfolio as described above.

Sincerely,



Bruno Nachtergaele, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor: Mathematics