



Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

Undergraduate Major Proposal: B.S. in Environmental Engineering

November 2, 2016

Proposed is a new undergraduate major—B.S. in Environmental Engineering—in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering.

Graduate Council

November 1, 2016 3:00 PM

Response continued on next page.

November 1, 2016

To: Academic Chair Goodhue**Re:** Undergraduate Major Proposal: B.S. in Environmental Engineering

Graduate Council (GC) discussed the Undergraduate Major Proposal for a B.S. in Environmental Engineering in its meeting on October 21st, 2016. The proposal involves the establishment of an undergraduate major without the hiring of additional faculty. The proposal involves the addition of three new courses, two of which are for a two-quarter senior design project, and the third is for an Introduction to Environmental Engineering. In the description of the latter course, it is stated that students will receive Instructor/TA feedback on technical content and writing style. Presumably graduate students would be the source of TAs for this new course.

GC recommends clarification be made regarding class size or demands that would warrant a TA, the source of financial support for a TA, and the expected level of support (e.g. 25%-50% position). Furthermore, GC noticed that there was no mention of additional faculty FTE to support the three new proposed courses and a likely increased need for undergraduate student advising. The lack of sufficient faculty time to teach graduate level classes has been identified in recent graduate program reviews as a major impediment to graduate education at UC Davis.

The proposal should state explicitly how it will be ensured that graduate education would not be impacted, e.g. that graduate course offerings will not be reduced because faculty teaching efforts would need to be redirected to the three new course offerings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Baumgarth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Nicole Baumgarth, Chair
Graduate Council

Planning & Budget

November 11, 2016 3:19 PM

CPB discussed the proposal for an undergraduate major in Environmental Engineering. The proposed new major is reasonable in light of the fact there are already 87 ABET approved Environmental Engineering majors in the US, including several at research universities based in California. CPB endorses the proposal.

Undergraduate Council

October 21, 2016 2:12 PM

The Undergraduate Council (UGC) has reviewed and discussed the proposal for the establishment of a new major entitled Environmental Engineering to be housed in the existing Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, and UGC supports the proposal.