

MEMORANDUM

Date: 30 April 2004

To: Dean Neil Sullivan and Associate Dean Louis Guillette

From: CLAS Committee on Ecology and Environment, Mark Brenner (LUECI and Geological Sciences), Jack Davis (History), Robert Holt (Zoology), Kaoru Kitajima (Botany), Jon Martin (Geological Sciences), Tony Oliver-Smith (Anthropology), Stephen Perz (Sociology), Marianne Schmink (Center for Latin American Studies and Anthropology), Paul Mueller (Geological Sciences), Bron Taylor (Religion), members; Michael Binford (Geography), Chair

Subject: Report and Action items for CLAS Program in Ecology and Environment

The E&E committee met several times over the past AY and made progress towards many of our stated goals (See Attachment A). The most significant action in the E&E field at the University of Florida during the past year has been the formal conversion of CNRE into SNRE within CALS. CALS has invested considerably in the administrative aspects of an expanded mission for SNRE (compared to CNRE), and two things are clear:

- 1) Faculty in CALS/SNRE continue the same cordial collaborative relationships with faculty in CLAS that we enjoyed before the realignment of CNRE/SNRE, and**
- 2) The research and, to a lesser extent, the educational, mission of SNRE has been aligned with the traditional mission of IFAS.**

These are expected and noteworthy developments. Of particular importance to the CLAS E&E program is the clear need for a campus-wide E&E related entity that focuses on issues beyond the CALS mission to serve the state of Florida directly. As the situation now stands, larger context E&E initiatives such as NSF's Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Sciences, Inc. (CUASHI, including the National Center for Hydrologic Synthesis, UF proposal pending; and Hydrologic Observatories, UF proposal in preparation) will be run through SNRE by default. We believe it is critical to establish a formal unit to provide coordinated collaborations with SNRE (research and education) as well as provide a vehicle for independent initiatives for CLAS and cooperating faculty in all colleges. To this end we emphasize the importance of:

- 1) Formal establishment of a CLAS Program in E&E with a 0.5 FTE Director to oversee initiation of the Program and to lead the development of a campus-wide E&E institute.**
- 2) Continuing to emphasize the development of a strong cadre of faculty focused on E&E research and educational activities. Attachment (B) provides an updated list of key hires vetted by the respective departments. Regardless of what administrative structure is adopted on campus, leadership in E&E related activities will accrue to the most vital faculty. This faculty should be in CLAS.**

CLAS E&E 2004 year End Report/**Attachment (A): E&E 03-04 Actions**

We remain committed to the concept that the domains of Ecology and Environment, which have physical, biological, and human dimensions, are more diverse and comprehensive than the missions of any single administrative unit at the University of Florida. We also believe that CLAS is in a unique position to integrate social sciences and humanities with physical and biological sciences, and therefore, to lead the development of a comprehensive, internationally recognized effort in the E&E field. The committee set 4 important goals for this year and has made progress in all areas:

1. Develop an inclusive division or school within the college concerned specifically with Ecology and Environment. We have forwarded a formal proposal to accomplish this under the leadership of a 0.5 FTE Director.

2. Add an environmental literacy requirement to liberal arts education at UF.

This action item has been tabled pending the appointment of the Director.

3. Convert the existing undergraduate interdisciplinary concentration in Environmental Studies into a curriculum in Ecology and Environment leading to a B.S. or B.A. degree.

Individual departments have forwarded to Associate Dean Guillette the outline of E&E options within their individual departments and of the existing program of study with the CLAS interdisciplinary studies program. We have requested that this outline be added as page accessible as a student hot link form the CLAS web site.

4. Work with the College of Agriculture and Life Science and College of Engineering to develop a university-wide Institute of Ecology and Environment (IEE) and UF-wide graduate degree program in Environmental Sciences.

This item is already underway, with three members of the CLAS faculty joining with three each from CALS and COE. Three of the current committee's members (Holt, Martin, Binford) are serving on that committee. Progress of this committee has been slower than desired. Nonetheless, various cooperative ventures underway in both the physical and biological sciences will demonstrate the feasibility and desirability of a campus wide institute (i.e., these ventures involve CLAS, CALS and COE faculty).

CLAS E&E 2004 year End Report/Attachment (B): Proposed new faculty for CLAS E&E program

The topics listed here are gaps in all programs at UF, and are complementary with all programs on campus. Rank is not addressed here, but should be included in the formal requests submitted by the participating departments. Listings do not represent a prioritization within individual years, but are presented alphabetically.

2004-05:

- Africanist Cultural/Political Ecologist (Anthropology)
- Environmental Politics - Domestic Regulation/Policy (Political Science)
- General Climatology (Geography)
- Human impacts on environment, broadly construed (e.g., land use/cover change, water or air pollution, climate change) (Sociology)
- Modern carbonate environments/reef ecology (Geological Sciences)
- Plant Population/Evolutionary Ecology (Botany)
- Religion and Indigenous Societies (Religion)
- Tropical Field Ecology/Conservation Biology (Zoology)

2005-06:

- Applied Ecological Anthropologist (Anthropology)
- Community Ecology - Linking theory and data (Zoology)
- Ecological Economic Geography (Geography)
- Environmental Politics - Regional/Global Policy (Political Science)
- Environmental change and human health (e.g., social epidemiology) (Sociology)
- Religion and Nature (Religion)
- Surficial Processes/Hydrology (Geological Sciences)
- Theoretical Plant Ecology (Botany)

2006-07:

- Chemical Ecologist (Botany)
- Coastal Processes (Geological Sciences)
- Ecological Anthropologist (Anthropology)
- Environmental Biogeographer (Geography)
- Environmental Philosophy/Ethics (Philosophy/Religion/Political Science)
- Experimental and Evolutionary Ecology (Zoology)
- Racial and socioeconomic disparities in the effects of environmental change (Sociology)