




## Academic Senate

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*Sang-Hee Lee, Chair*

December 15, 2023

**To:** Dana Simmons, Chair and Lead Proponent, Department of Society, Environment, and Health Equity

**From:** Sang-Hee Lee, Chair, Executive Council 

**RE:** **Proposed Bachelor of Arts Degree Program in Environmental Studies (B.A. in Environmental Studies [ENST])**

Dear Dana,

On December 11, 2023 the Academic Senate Executive Council discussed the [subject proposal](#) along with the consultative feedback from the Committees on Courses, Educational Policy, Planning & Budget, CNAS Faculty Executive Committee, and the SPP Faculty Executive Committee.

Though Executive Council supports inclusion of the proposal on the Winter Division agenda, strong clarification regarding how this degree program is different from the undergraduate program in the Department of Environmental Sciences is necessary. Further, Council recommends a program name that reflects the humanities aspect of the major.

Based on the mixed cumulative feedback regarding the proposal, please provide a revised proposal in consideration of all of the review feedback, and include responses to the comments and questions above and in the attached memos no later than January 12, 2024. You may find it helpful to note that in the past, proponents have included a summary document that includes responses as a cover to a revised proposal.

Thank you.

Cc: Wesley Leonared, Chair, CHASS Faculty Executive Committee  
Gabrielle Brewer, CHASS Faculty Executive Committee Liaison and Student Affairs Officer



## *Academic Senate*

### **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY**

December 5, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Ward Beyermann, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy

**Re: Proposed B.A. in Environmental Studies**

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed the proposed B.A. in Environmental Studies at their December 1, 2023 meeting and voted to support the proposal. The Committee does request that the program correct the number of total units on page 19 from 48 to 52.



December 4, 2023

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Bahram Mobasher, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: Response to Proposed Degree Programs in ENST and GCH Departments

Dear Sang-Hee,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee wants to address several concerns regarding the recent Major and Minor proposals in Environmental Studies and Global and Community Health. It has come to our attention that significant issues require consideration and resolution:

Regrettably, our concerns have not been adequately addressed during the processes underway, and the results are the development of a department that could potentially divert and confuse our students.

It has also come to our attention that there is a proposed change in the department's name from "Sustainability Studies" to "Environmental Sciences." Changing the name from "Sustainability" to "Environmental" may confuse current and future students. Therefore, it is recommended that we act or voice objections against this alteration. It seems reasonable to request reconsideration of the name change. We must collectively ensure that the department's name accurately represents its goals and scope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Mobasher" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bahram Mobasher, Ph.D

Chair, Faculty Executive Committee College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences



## *Academic Senate*

### **COMMITTEE ON COURSES**

December 6, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: James Flegal, Chair  
Committee on Courses

**Re: Proposed B.A. in Environmental Studies**


The Committee on Courses reviewed the proposed B.A. in Environmental Studies at their November 29, 2023 meeting and made the following recommendations for the proposed curriculum for the major:

- Include a “Sample Program” section similar to the one published for the Neuroscience undergraduate major in the academic catalog that clearly outlines the courses for students enrolled in the major to take by quarter and year;
- Ensure that course proposals for the following courses proposed to be included in the major’s curriculum are entered into CRS in a timely manner as all courses listed in the proposed curriculum do need to receive final approval by the Committee on Courses before the curriculum can be published in the catalog: SEHE 001S, SEHE 101, SEHE 101S, SEHE 105S, SEHE 110, SEHE 115, SEHE 120, SEHE 127S/POSC 127S, SEHE 130, SEHE 136/POSC 106, SEHE 131, SEHE 132, SEHE 135, SEHE 137/POSC 137, SEHE 139/POSC 139, SEHE 139S/POSC 139S, SEHE 140/GSST 131, SEHE 144/HISA 119, SEHE 193, SEHE 198I, SEHE 198G/LABR 198G, SEHE 195H;
- Consider adding the cross listed course for MCS 159, URST 159 to the proposed curriculum;
- Consider adding the cross listed course for ETST 113, HISA 134 to the proposed curriculum;
- Remove the proposed course MCS 146F/ENGL 146F from the proposed curriculum as it has been discontinued.

**PLANNING AND BUDGET**

October 30, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Reza Abbaschian, Chair   
Committee on Planning and Budget

**RE: [Campus Review] Proposed Degree Program: Bachelor of Arts Degree  
Program in Environmental Studies**

At our meeting on October 10, 2023, the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the proposed Bachelor of Arts degree program in Environmental Studies. CPB supports the proposed degree program.

Additionally, CPB asks: will the BA in Environmental Studies program provide opportunities for cross-exchanges and collaborations with the Environmental Sciences program in CNAS and the Environmental Engineering program in BCOE?

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair  
Riverside Division

FR: Richard M. Carpiano, Chair  
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: [Campus Review] Proposed Degree Program: Bachelor of Arts Degree Program in  
Environmental Studies (B.A. in Environmental Studies [ENST])

Date: November 22, 2023

---

The Faculty Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy reviewed the document “[Campus Review] Proposed Degree Program: Bachelor of Arts Degree Program in Environmental Studies (B.A. in Environmental Studies [ENST]).”

In the course of our review and discussion, the following issues arose about the proposed curriculum:

1. Given the stated learning objectives that indicate the importance of students understanding ecological issues locally, nationally, and globally, it is crucial for students to have a thorough grounding in environmental science to comprehend the interplay between the natural world and human societies. A significant concern raised with the current curriculum proposal is its apparent lack of foundational science. Without a robust understanding of environmental science, discussing environmental governance and the scientific underpinnings of environmental inequities becomes challenging.

It is noteworthy that this degree program lacks upper-level or advanced courses in environmental science. The present focus seems to be predominantly on the human aspects of environmental issues, without sufficient emphasis on the scientific aspects. This imbalance could lead to a skewed perspective among students. Overall, the curriculum could be more effectively designed to integrate both natural sciences and social sciences, providing a comprehensive educational experience in this field. Currently, it seems that the curriculum is shaped more by disciplinary convenience rather than a commitment to interdisciplinary learning. This approach risks limiting the depth and breadth of education students receive, thereby hindering their ability to fully understand and address complex environmental issues that humanity faces, particularly in this concerning era of science denialism and less than ideal data literacy.

2. Page 8: Regarding the lower-division requirement “an additional science course with a lab,” the phrasing of “an additional” suggests there is more than one, but this seems to be the only lower-division science course with a lab in the curriculum.
3. The Global and Community Health B.A. curriculum contains a requirement for one lower-division course in data analysis. Why does this requirement not exist for the Environmental Studies degree given that the two degrees are detailed in the document as having considerable focal overlap, sharing some courses like the required methods course?
4. Page 11: Under “Affiliated faculty,” Ariel Dinar is retired from UCR. Hence, it is unclear how up-to-date this list is.
5. Page 15: Under the section header “Chairs’ approval to include their courses in the new curriculum (in 2021 or 2023),” SPP Associate Dean Bruce Babcock is listed. The phrasing of this header can be read in more than one way, so, just to be certain, this approval only pertains to the PBPL courses cross-listed with other units that are listed in this proposed curriculum document (i.e. ENGR 171/PBPL 171) and not any other PBPL courses. This specificity is indicated in the email exchange between SEHE representative Ellen Reese and SPP Associate Dean Bruce Babcock included in the appendix of this document (p. 66).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Carpiano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being the most prominent.

Richard M. Carpiano, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Professor of Public Policy