




April 23, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Rachel Wu, Chair 
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Proposal: Geographic Information Systems and Public Policy B.S. Degree (GIS
and Public Policy)

The CHASS Faculty Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the proposal for a GIS and Public Policy BS Degree and had some feedback for the preparers before approval. We discussed the impact of this major on current CHASS (and other schools') course offerings, which the proposal does mention but does not go into detail. We'd like to ask the School of Public Policy (SPP) to communicate directly with the department of Economics in CHASS, the CHASS Dean, and other affected departments to have their full support in this new major, considering the impact on their classes specifically. In particular, we request that SPP indicate the load that the new major will have on Economics and CHASS in general, and a plan for providing resources that would be proportionate to the load placed on Economics and/or CHASS. For example, if extra seats are needed for an Economics course, how would that be resolved? That said, we recognize the timeliness and usefulness of this major for our campus and student populations and can foresee it impacting positively at UCR.