

## COVER PAGE FOR CHANGES TO ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION OR STRUCTURE OF AN EDUCATIONAL UNIT

The Senate’s Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) is tasked by the University Senate with the review of proposals to change academic organization or structure. The information needed by the SAOSC for the review of such proposals is set forth in *Senate Rules 3.4.2.A.5*<sup>1</sup>.

The SAOSC has developed a set of guidelines (from the *Senate Rules*) that are intended to ease the task of proposal submission (available at <http://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/forms>). As proposal omissions usually cause a delay in the review process, the individual(s) responsible for the proposal is (are) urged to familiarize themselves with these guidelines before submitting their proposals for review. In particular, the individual responsible for the proposal must fill out Sections I, II and III of this form, as well as include statements and documentation that provide a full accounting of the items a - i, below.

- a. Disposition of faculty, staff and resources (financial and physical);
- b. Willingness of the donating units to release faculty lines for transfer to a different educational unit;
- c. Consultation with the faculty of the unit to which the faculty lines are proposed to be transferred;
- d. Consultation with the faculty of educational unit that will be significantly reduced;
- e. Summary of votes and viewpoints (including dissents) of unit faculty and department/college committees;
- f. Ballots, votes expressing support for or against the proposal by unit faculty and staff and committees;
- g. Letters of support or opposition from appropriate faculty and/or administrators; and
- h. Letters of support from outside the University.

### Section I – General Information about Proposal

One- to two-sentence description of change:	The fields of geogrpny and environmental and sustainability studies are very closely related. The geography faculty are committed to the mission and success of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies interdisciplinary program (ENS). With that being said, the ENS faculty of record and the faculty in the Department of Geography have voted to approve moving the Environmental and Sustainability Studies interdisciplinary program from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography.				
Contact person name:	Tony Stallins	Phone:	859-475-8446	Email:	ja.stallins@uky.edu
Administrative position (dean, chair, director, etc.):	Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program				

### Section II – Educational Unit(s) Potentially Impacted by Proposal

Check all that apply and name the specific unit(s).	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Department of: Geography
<input type="checkbox"/>	School of:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College of: Arts and Sciences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Center for:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Interdisciplinary Instructional Program: Environmental and Sustainability Studies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multidisciplinary Research Center/Institute:

<sup>1</sup> Items a-i are derived from *Senate Rules 3.4.2.A.5*. The Senate Rules in their entirety are available at [http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/rules\\_regulations/index.htm](http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/rules_regulations/index.htm).)

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## Section III – Type of Proposal

Check all that apply.	
<i>A. Changes</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change to the name of an educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change to the type of educational unit (e.g., from department to school).
<i>B. Other types of proposals</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creation of a new educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consolidation of multiple educational units.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transfer of an academic program to a different educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transfer of an educational unit to a different reporting unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant reduction of an educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discontinuation, suspension or closure of an educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Give a one- or two-sentence description below; a complete description will be in the proposal).

### **Section IV is for internal use/guidance.**

#### Section IV – Guidance for SAOSC, Senate Council and University Senate

##### ***SAOSC Review of Type A Proposals (Changes to Type of, or to Name of, an Educational Unit)***

- ✓ SAOSC review of proposal.
- ✓ SAOSC recommendation for an additional or joint review by other Senate committee(s) (e.g. Senate's Academic Programs Committee).

##### ***SAOSC Review of Type B Proposals (All Other Changes)***

- ✓ SAOSC review of proposal.
- ✓ SAOSC recommendation for an additional or joint review by other Senate committee(s) (e.g. Senate's Academic Programs Committee).
- ✓ SAOSC review of proposals for creation, consolidation, transfer, closure, discontinuation, or significant reduction and educational unit, or transfer of an academic program to a different educational unit (attach documentation).
- ✓ Program review in past three years (attach documentation).
- ✓ Request to Provost for new program review (attach documentation).
- ✓ Open hearing (attach documentation).
  - SAOSC information must be shared with unit 10 days prior to hearing.
  - Open hearing procedures disseminated.

##### ***Voting by SAOSC, Senate Council and University Senate***

- ✓ Endorse (or do not endorse) the academic organization, reporting, infrastructure, etc.

## COVER PAGE FOR CHANGES TO ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION OR STRUCTURE OF AN EDUCATIONAL UNIT

- This vote is taken by the SAOSC, SC and Senate for every SAOSC proposal.
- ✓ Approve (or do not approve) the academic status or content of academic program.
  - This vote is taken by the SAOSC, SC and Senate only when the review involves an MDRC.

### **1. What is the impetus for the proposed change?**

The Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program (ENS) is currently housed under the College of Art and Sciences. The Department of Geography has become increasingly invested in the mission and success of the ENS program. Over the years, the Department of Geography has taken on the primary responsibility of advising ENS students, scheduling ENS courses, and supporting the overall mission of the ENS program. In order to better facilitate the department's continued support of ENS, we propose moving the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography. Moving the home education unit of the ENS program will allow the Department of Geography to continue its dedication to the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program by maintaining the curriculum, continuing to advise students, and overseeing the annual program student learning outcome assessment.

### **2. What are the benefits and weaknesses of the proposed unit with specific emphasis on the academic merits for the proposed change?**

The faculty in the Department of Geography are committed to ensuring the success of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program (ENS) and its students. The fields of geography and environmental and sustainability studies are closely related, giving the faculty in the Department of Geography the knowledge needed to successfully advise students in the program. Moving the ENS program into the Department of Geography would also provide the benefit of utilizing the expertise of the geography department manager. The department manager acts as a liaison between the faculty and various college offices that handle scheduling courses, booking rooms, and maintaining budgets. There are no weaknesses to moving the ENS program into the Department of Geography. The faculty in geography have already taken responsibility and ownership of the interdisciplinary program. Moving the program would only allow the department to better support the needs of both the program and its students.

### **3. Describe the organization of the current structure and how the proposed structure will be different and better. Current and proposed organizational charts are often helpful in illustrating reporting lines.**

The Environmental and Sustainability Studies program (ENS) is currently housed under the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S). The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences appoints the director and director of undergraduate studies, in consultation with the faculty of record. The only change we are requesting is to move the program and its curriculum (undergraduate BA/BS degree, undergraduate minor, and ENS prefix courses) into the Department of Geography. The already established ENS faculty of record, which consists of ten

faculty members across the university, will continue the oversight of the program curriculum.

**4. How does the change fit with department, college, and/or university objectives and priorities?**

Moving the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program (ENS) into the Department of Geography would ensure the success of the programs undergraduate students by providing a home that will promote self-discovery, experiential learning, and life-long achievement. The collective effort of the ENS faculty of record and the faculty in the Department of Geography would serve as a global community by disseminating, sharing and applying knowledge to better the students in the program. We hope the transfer of the program will expand opportunities for scholarship, creative endeavors, and research across a full range of disciplines.

**5. How does this change better position the proposers relative to state and national peers, as well as University Benchmark Institutions? How does the change help UK meet the goals of its strategic plan?**

Moving the program will better align the University of Kentucky with our benchmark institutions. Many of our benchmark institutions already include a similar major in their respective geography departments.

- University of Iowa: Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences houses majors in Geography and Sustainability Studies.
- Michigan State University: Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences houses majors in Human Geography, Economic Geography, and Environmental Geography.
- University of Arizona: School of Geography and Development houses a major in Geography: Water, Environment, and Society.

The change will help the university meet the goals of their strategic plan by promoting the public good through the application of our expertise and resources to meet challenges and disparities associated with social, economic, environmental, educational, and health issues.

**6. Who are the key personnel associated with the proposed unit? Provide qualifications of these personnel in a brief form. A complete curriculum vitae for each person is not needed, although pertinent information in tabular format is helpful.**

Zook, Matt; Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Geography

**Ehrkamp, Patricia, Professor and Department Chair of Geography (Sabbatical Fall 2019)**

Fryar, Alan; Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Interim Program Director of

## Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Beymer-Farris, Betsy; Assistant Professor and Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program Director

Stallins, J Anthony; Associate Professor and Environmental and Sustainability Studies Director of Undergraduate Studies

### **7. Discuss leadership and selection process for appointing a chair, a director, or interim leader and search process.**

The dean of the College of Arts and Sciences appoints both the director and director of undergraduate studies (DUS), in consultation with the faculty of record. This is true for all DUS, interdisciplinary program directors, and department chairs in the college of Arts and Sciences.

### **8. What is the function of the faculty/staff associated with the proposed change and how is that relationship defined? Discuss DOE, adjunct, full-time, voting rights, etc.**

Environmental and Sustainability Studies (ENS) is an interdisciplinary program, so only the director and director of undergraduate studies, have a portion of their DOE assigned to the program. As an interdisciplinary program, ENS cannot home faculty appointments. All faculty have appointments in a department. This will not change when ENS is moved into the Department of Geography. The already established faculty of record will continue to oversee the curriculum for the program. The faculty of record is made up of ten faculty members, spread across the university, who all have equal voting rights. The department manager for the Department of Geography, who has already been assisting the ENS program director, will continue to serve in this role.

### **9. Will the proposed change involve multiple schools or colleges?**

The Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program is currently housed under the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S). The Department of Geography is also housed under A&S, so no other schools or colleges will be involved in this transfer.

### **10. If the proposed change will involve transferring personnel from one unit to another, provide evidence that the donor unit is willing and able to release the personnel.**

There will be no transfer of personnel.

### **11. What is the arrangement of faculty associated with the proposed change? Discuss faculty DOE and status as adjunct, tenure track, or tenured. Describe the level of faculty input in the policy-making process including voting rights and advisory.**

Environmental and Sustainability Studies (ENS) is an interdisciplinary program, so only the

director and director of undergraduate studies, have a portion of their DOE assigned to the program. As an interdisciplinary program, ENS cannot have faculty appointments. All faculty have appointments in a department. This will not change when ENS is moved into the Department of Geography. The already established faculty of record will continue to oversee the curriculum for the program. The faculty of record is made up of fourteen faculty members, spread across the university, who all have equal voting rights.

**12. Discuss any implications of the proposal for accreditation by SACS and/or other organizations.**

Transferring the Environmental and Sustainability Interdisciplinary program to Geography will have no implications for accreditation.

**13. What is the timeline for key events in the proposed change? Student enrollments, graduates, moved programs, closed courses, new faculty and staff hires, etc.**

We propose an effective starting date of July 1, 2020. Changes in student enrollment and the number of graduates or course offerings are not impacted by this or any other starting date.

**14. If the proposal involves degree changes, describe how the proposed structure will enhance students' education and make them more competitive. Discuss the impact on current and future students. State assumptions underlying student enrollment growth and describe the plans for student recruitment.**

The proposal does not involve degree changes; the Environmental and Sustainability Studies program will retain the same requirements and advantages to students who complete it.

**15. Include evidence that adequate financial resources exist for the proposed unit to be viable. A general description of the new costs and funding should be provided. A letter from the Provost, Dean, or other relevant administrators may affirm commitment to provide financial resources as appropriate. An exhaustive budget is not expected.**

Transfer of the program will incur no additional costs. The current operating budget will continue to be approved by the Dean.

**16. The proposal should document any faculty votes and departmental or school committee votes as appropriate leading up to this point in the process. The SAOSC recommends that faculty votes be by secret ballot. Include in your documentation of each vote taken the total number of eligible voters and the number that actually voted along with the break-down of the vote into numbers for, against and abstaining. A Chair**

or Dean may appropriately summarize supporting and opposing viewpoints expressed during faculty discussions.

We have also attached letters of support from:

- Alan Fryar, Interim Director of Environmental and Sustainability Studies
- Mark Kornbluh, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
- Haris Symeonidis, Chair, Education Policy Committee
- Solomon Harrar, Chair, Executive Committee
- Matt Zook, Interim Department Chair, Department of Geography

**17. The committee will want to see evidence of academic merit and support from key parties. Letters of support (or opposition) are encouraged from the relevant senior faculty and administrators. Relevant faculty and administrators include those in units directly involved in the proposed change (including existing units from which a new unit may be formed.)**

Please see number 16 above.

**18. Indicate how the new structure will be evaluated as to whether it is meeting the objectives for its formation. Timing of key events is helpful.**

The program curriculum and the success of the program will continue to be evaluated through the annual assessment process.

**19. Letters of support from outside the University may be helpful in understanding why this change helps people beyond the University.**

Not applicable



January 8, 2020

Dear Senate Council,

I am pleased to express the College's strongest support of the proposed transfer of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program (ENS), including the Bachelor of Arts in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Minor and all ENS prefix courses, from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography. The ENS program emphasizes collaboration across several undergraduate colleges and prepares students to analyze complex environmental problems from a variety of perspectives. Over the years, the Department of Geography has taken on the primary responsibility of advising ENS students, scheduling ENS prefix courses, and supporting the overall mission of the ENS program. This move formalizes the administrative support for these interdisciplinary programs.

Moving the ENS Program into the Department of Geography would ensure the success of the programs students by providing a home that will promote self-discovery, experiential learning, and life-long achievement. The ENS faculty of record, in partnership with the faculty in the Department of Geography, would serve as a global community by disseminating, sharing, and applying knowledge to better the students in the program.

The College of Arts and Sciences fully supports the proposed transfer of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography.

Sincerely,



Mark Lawrence Kornbluh  
Dean

see blue.™

December 10, 2019

Dear Senate Council,

On behalf of the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Executive Committee discussed and approved the transfer of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program (undergraduate degree, undergraduate minor, and ENS prefix courses) from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography. 5:0:0 on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

Sincerely,



Solomon Harrar  
Chair, Executive Committee

December 10, 2019

Dear Senate Council,

On behalf of the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Education Policy Committee discussed and approved the proposal to transfer the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Interdisciplinary Program (undergraduate degree, undergraduate minor, and ENS prefix courses) from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography 9:0:0 on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

Sincerely,



Haralambos Symeonidis  
Chair, Education Policy Committee



**University of Kentucky**  
**College of Arts & Sciences**  
Earth & Environmental Sciences  
101 Slone Building  
Lexington, KY 40506-0053  
P: 859-257-3758  
F: 859-323-1938  
<https://ees.as.uky.edu>

October 30, 2019

Prof. Matthew Zook, Interim Chair  
Department of Geography  
University of Kentucky  
817 Patterson Office Tower  
CAMPUS 0027

Dear Prof. Zook,

On September 10, 2019, the Environmental and Sustainability Studies (ENS) Program Faculty met. Those present unanimously voted (8-2-0) to move the BA in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, the undergraduate minor, and all ENS prefix courses, from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography. The eight members of the Program Faculty in attendance represented a quorum according to ENS rules (half the total Program Faculty plus one), and consisted of:

Betsy Beymer-Farris  
Lauren Cagle  
Alan Fryar  
Bob Sandmeyer  
Tony Stallins  
Shane Tedder  
Ted Schatzki  
Alice Turkington

Members of the Program Faculty who were unable to attend were Lisa Cliggett and Ernie Yanarella.

If you have any questions, please call (859-257-4392) or e-mail ([alan.fryar@uky.edu](mailto:alan.fryar@uky.edu)) me.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan E. Fryar'.

Alan E. Fryar  
Professor and Interim Director, ENS

see blue.

An Equal Opportunity University



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**Department of Geography**  
817 Patterson Office Tower  
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November 21, 2019

Tony Stallins and Senate Council:

I am writing to inform you that at the Geography departmental meeting on November 20th, the faculty voted and approved moving the BA in Environmental and Sustainability Studies, the ENS undergraduate minor, as well as the administration of all ENS prefix courses, from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography. The vote was as follows: (17 yes, 0 no, 4 absent 1 abstained).

Let me know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Zook'.

Matthew Zook, Ph.D.  
University Research Professor and Interim Chair

**In Favor:**

Giesecking  
Beymer-Farris  
Lally  
McCutcheon Senanayake  
Wood  
Wilson  
Donohue  
Shearer  
Stallins  
Liang  
Levy  
Samers  
Schatzki  
Mutersbaugh  
J Phillips  
Zook  
Turkington

**Abstaining:** Schein

**Absent:** Ehrkamp, Roberts,  
Shannon



University of Kentucky  
Department of Geography  
College of Arts & Sciences  
817 Patterson Office Tower

November 25, 2019

Faculty Senate  
Committee on Academic Organization and Structure (SAOSC)

We are submitting for your review a proposal to formally place the Environmental and Sustainability Studies (ENS) program under direct administration of the Department of Geography. ENS is currently a stand-alone program in the College of Art and Sciences. The Department of Geography has become increasingly invested in the mission and success of the ENS program. For several years, Geography has taken on the primary responsibility of advising ENS students, scheduling ENS courses, and supporting the overall mission of the ENS program.

This transfer includes not only the operational aspects of the ENS program, but also the management of the curricula for the ENS undergraduate degree, undergraduate minor and ENS prefix courses. The transfer will not involve changes in staffing or DOEs, nor are any costs associated with the move. Moving ENS to Geography will not have any impact on other programs, departments, or colleges on campus.

The ENS program faculty have voted in support of this transfer, as well as faculty in the Department of Geography. Additional letters of support at the departmental level are provided by the interim chair of the Geography Department, Matt Zook, as well as the interim director of the ENS program, Alan Fryar. I have appended a detailed list of the ENS Program Faculty, their departmental appointments, and how they voted to approve this transfer. Email votes from faculty absent from the Fall 2019 meeting where initial voting took place are appended.

Sincerely,

Jon Anthony Stallins  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geography  
ENS Director of Undergraduate Studies

There were 10 ENS Program Faculty at the start of the Fall 2019 semester. The eight members of the Program Faculty in attendance on the September 10, 2019 meeting in which a vote was taken to approve the transfer represented a quorum according to ENS rules (half the total Program Faculty plus one). Eight were in favor of the transfer, two faculty were absent from this meeting. Here is a breakdown of their votes and appointments, as well as voting positions of the two absent members as queried in Jan 2020.

**ENS Program Faculty voting Sept 10, 2019 in support of transferring ENS to Geography**

Alan Fryar, Professor, Earth and Environmental Science

Tony Stallins, Professor, Geography, DUS, Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Shane Tedder, UK Sustainability Coordinator

Betsy Beymer-Farris: Assistant Professor of Geography and ENS Director

Lauren Cagle: Assistant Professor, Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies

Bob Sandmeyer: Assistant Professor, Philosophy

Ted Schatzki: Professor, Geography

Alice Turkington: Associate Professor, Geography

**Absent at Sept 10, 2019 meeting when vote was taken, but approved transfer via email Jan 2020 (attached)**

Ernest Yanarella: Professor, Political Science

**Absent at Sept 10, 2019 meeting and abstaining from voting per email Jan 2020 (attached)**

Lisa Cliggett: Professor, Anthropology

**Subject:** Re: Transferring ENS to GEOG  
**From:** "Yanarella, Ernest J." <ejyana@uky.edu>  
**Date:** 1/31/2020, 3:15 PM  
**To:** "Stallins, Jon A." <ja.stallins@uky.edu>

Dear Tony--

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program becoming affiliated with the Department of Geography. This minor and major program has become sufficiently mature and its number of majors and minors in the undergraduate program robust enough for me to believe that with its incorporation into the Department of Geography it will find a secure interdisciplinary foundation for its continued curricular sophistication and growth. Given the strength of its program faculty, I am pleased that that, according to the proposal, "The already established faculty of record will continue to oversee the curriculum for the program" and that "[t]he faculty of record [will continue to be] made up of ten faculty members, spread across the university, who all have equal voting rights." To my mind, this oversight council has been a valued and critical aspect of the progress of this interdisciplinary program.

I regret that my retirement July 1, 2019, and post-retirement appointment to teach ENS 400 for ENS director Betsy Beymer-Farris allowed only limited engagement with the ENS program's curricular and administrative oversight during the Fall 2019 semester and as a result led my absence from this key meeting and crucial vote.

With all best wishes,

Ernie

Ernest j. Yanarella, Professor Emeritus  
Department of Political Science  
University of Kentucky

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**Subject:** Re: Transferring ENS to GEOG

**From:** "Cliggett, Lisa C." <lisa.cliggett@uky.edu>

**Date:** 1/31/2020, 9:24 PM

**To:** "Stallins, Jon A." <ja.stallins@uky.edu>

**CC:** "Yanarella, Ernest J." <ejyana@uky.edu>, "Farris, Betsy A." <bbeymer-farris@uky.edu>

Hi Tony. I'll stay with the abstain. I'm sorry I missed the discussion in the fall. And without hearing the details I'm more comfortable with abstaining. Thanks. Lisa

*Lisa Cliggett, PhD*

*Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology*

*Past Editor (2011-2015) Economic Anthropology (Wiley Blackwell*

*Journals) [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)2330-4847/issues](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)2330-4847/issues)*