

Motion to Approve Geospatial Science Proposal

(Richard Roth on behalf of the School of Physical and Environmental Sciences)

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate approves the proposal to establish a Geospatial Science program in the School of Environmental and Physical Sciences, College of Science and Technology.

Rationale:

In 2009-2010, the Department of Geography was administratively restructured into the School of Environmental and Physical Sciences in the College of Science and Technology. In keeping with its new academic home, and in an effort to respond to trends in the field and the needs of students, the former Department of (now Program in) Geography proposes revisions as follows:

1. The faculty of the Geography Program within the School of Environmental and Physical Science is petitioning Radford University and the State Council of Higher Education to change our CIP code to

40. 40.0699 Environmental Geosciences (Other)

Within this designation we would offer two concentrations which will complement programs currently offered within the School of Environmental and Physical Science and other departments within the College of Science and Technology at Radford University.

2. Program name would be changed from Geography to Geospatial Science.

3. Requirements for the "core" -- courses required of all majors -- would be changed.

4. The Planning Concentration would be dropped. Students currently in the concentration would be taught out over the next three years.

5. The existing concentration, Environmental Studies, would be renamed the Environmental Concentration and its requirements modified.

6. The existing concentration, Geographic Information Systems, would be renamed to Geoinformatics and several of its requirements will be changed.

7. Courses specifically required for majors would be designated with the prefix GEOS; existing geography courses taught for General Education credit would retain the prefix GEOG and continue to be offered.

Current status of proposal: The proposal package has been reviewed and approved by the curriculum committees of the School of Environmental and Physical Sciences and the College of Science and Technology.