To: Julia Wallace, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
From: Derryl Block, Interim Dean, College of Professional and Graduate Studies  
Date: June 25, 2010  


The Graduate Program in Environmental Science and Policy (ES&P) blends environmental science and policy to “prepare graduates for positions in scientific, technical and administrative organizations and agencies.” Curricular requirements are 34 credits from: three core courses (an introductory course, a graduate seminar and a capstone course), a public policy course, a science course, a thesis with associated credits, and 15 credits in one of three areas of emphasis (Ecosystems Studies, Resource Management, and Environmental Policy and Administration).

The BS/MS Integrated Program allows selected undergraduate students to begin working on their graduate degree while still completing their undergraduate degree. Students in this program are required to complete 30 graduate credits.

The ES&P program has a clear programmatic mission statement that fits perfectly with UW-Green Bay’s select mission. Additionally, merging of science and policy is inherently interdisciplinary.

The program fits the needs of part-time as well as full time students. Many courses are alternatively scheduled. Additionally, the BS/MS Integrated program gives selected undergraduate students the opportunity to steadily and continually progress through the masters program. It also gives faculty the chance to select stellar undergraduates to become graduate students and collaborate with them on research projects.

The faculty is active in scholarship and well published. They have pursued federal grants to garner funding for their own research as well as assistantships for students. The faculty is also active in service.

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The ES&P program as a whole and the thesis in particular are rated highly by students. Faculty research as well as students benefit from the thesis research requirement. Program advising receives lower student ratings.

Resource problems, a general problem for graduate programs that are not specifically funded, seem to be magnified because of the highly interdisciplinary nature of this program. Additionally, losing some graduate assistantship resources in the past years sharpens faculty sensitivity to resource scarcity. There was a discussion during the October 23, 2010 ES&P review meeting about whether the program is sustainable. The ES&P Chair and faculty representatives convinced the AAC members that they want the program to continue and desperately need additional resources.

**Recommended Actions:**
- The ES&P Chair and faculty should, along with UW-Green Bay Administration, consider the pros and cons of converting the program to revenue based model.
- The Program should collaborate with the Professional Program in Business and Masters in Management Program to develop a track integrating environmental science and policy with business.
- The Program should develop a plan for increasing the number of students and faculty who are members of underrepresented groups.
- The Program should develop a plan for improving student advising.
- ES&P should collaborate with EMBI in identifying paid internships and research opportunities for students.
- ES&P faculty should work with the Advancement Office to identify opportunities for fundraising.

I commend the ES&P faculty for providing a solid program with excellent ties to the community. I concur with the AAC recommendation that the Graduate Program of ES&P provide the AAC with a current assessment of the program and resource issues by October 1, 2012.

cc: Tim Sewall, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
    Christine Style, Chair, Academic Affairs Council
    Patricia Terry, Chair, Graduate Program in Environmental Science and Policy