Date: July 11, 2011

To: Julia Wallace
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

From: Scott Furlong
Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Re: Report on the Environmental Science Program Review

I have examined the Self-Study Report prepared by the faculty in Environmental Science, as well as the Program Review conducted by the Academic Affairs Council. Please note that the last review was conducted relatively recently (Spring 2008, which is attached as well) and there is not much different to report from that time period. Based on my examination of these materials I recommend continuation of the Environmental Science program. Specific comments that I made to the faculty include the following:

1. The number of majors in the program has increased quite a bit in the past few years and the number graduates is in better alignment than my last report. There continues to be a gender imbalance in the program but it is improving.

2. Many Environmental Science faculty are key contributors to the graduate program in Environmental Science and Policy (ES&P). This causes resource concerns in covering courses. It may affect the ability of faculty to teach courses at the lower level (something the AAC notes), and rely more on ad hoc instruction and overloads.

3. There are always lab and equipment needs for the program that can not be fully addressed with existing resources. Nevertheless, the faculty has a strong research agenda and has been very successful in grant development.

4. As stated in my last report, an assessment plan on student learning needs to be developed (or redeveloped). The unit has begun to examine this issue.

5. The efforts to reinvigorate UW-Green Bay’s environmental programs can provide a number of opportunities for the Environmental Science program.

Attachment: 2008 Report

Cc: Greg Davis, Chair NAS
Steve Dutch, Chair AAC
Date: May 16, 2008

To: Sue Hammersmith
    Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

From: Scott Furlong
    Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Re: Report on the Environmental Science Program Review

I have examined the Self-Study Report prepared by the faculty in Environmental Science, as well as the Program Review conducted by the Academic Affairs Council. Based on my examination of these materials I recommend continuation of the Environmental Science program. Specific comments that I made to the faculty include the following:

1. There is some concern regarding the number of majors graduating from the program compared to the total number of majors. There also is also a heavy gender imbalance with relatively few female majors. This is not the case in other natural science majors and probably needs some further exploration by the faculty.

2. Many Environmental Science faculty are key contributors to the graduate program in Environmental Science and Policy (ES&P). This causes resource concerns in covering courses. It may affect the ability of faculty to teach courses at the lower level (something the AAC notes), and rely more on ad hoc instruction, which could affect recruitment (including the gender imbalance) and advising.

3. There are always lab and equipment needs for the program that can not be fully addressed with existing resources. Nevertheless, the faculty have a strong research agenda and have been very successful in grant development.

4. An assessment plan on student learning needs to be developed (or redeveloped).

5. There have been important curricular changes made to the program including reformulating the major to a one-track program; the addition of courses including two travel courses; and participation in the integrated ES&P program.

6. The efforts to reinvigorate UW-Green Bay’s environmental programs can provide a number of opportunities for the Environmental Science program.

Cc: Greg Davis, Chair NAS
    Mark Everingham, Chair AAC