



MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Linda L. Neider
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Neider', is written over the 'From:' line.

Date: August 28, 2020

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-04(B) – Merge the PhD in Environmental Science and Policy offered through the Graduate School (administered by the Abess Center) with the PhD in Marine Ecosystems and Society Program offered through RSMAS, which Transfers the Abess Center PhD Program in Environmental Science and Policy TO the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS)

Reference Legislation #2020-05(B) and #2020-06(B)

The Faculty Senate, at its August 26, 2020 meeting, had no objections to the proposal to merge the PhD in Environmental Science and Policy offered through the Graduate School (administered by the Abess Center) with the PhD in Marine Ecosystems and Society Program offered through RSMAS, which Transfers the Abess Center PhD Program in Environmental Science and Policy TO the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS).

The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

LLN/rh

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
Roni Avissar, Dean, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS)
Guillermo Prado, Dean, Graduate School
Kenny Broad, Professor, MES; Director, Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy
Katharine Mach, Assoc. Professor and Graduate Program Dir, Marine Ecosystems and Society (MES); Faculty Scholar, Abess Center
Gina Maranto, Director, Ecosystem Science and Policy; Graduate Program Coordinator, Abess Center
David Letson, Professor and Chair, MES, RSMAS

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-04(B) – Merge the PhD in Environmental Science and Policy offered through the Graduate School (administered by the Abess Center) with the PhD in Marine Ecosystems and Society Program offered through RSMAS, which Transfers the Abess Center PhD Program in Environmental Science and Policy TO the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS)

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  _____ DATE: 9/11/20
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Roni Avissar, Dean (RSMAS) and Guillermo Prado, Dean
(Graduate School)

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(pending any additional approval by the Board of Trustees)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 03/04/20 12:17 pm

Viewing: **Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy : ECSD_PHD**

Last approved: 03/03/20 11:20 am

Last edit: 05/29/20 12:28 pm

Changes proposed by: Gina Maranto (gmaranto)

Catalog Pages Using
this Program

[Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy](#)

In Workflow

1. PG Assessment and Accreditation
2. PG MES Chair
3. PG GR School
4. PG Graduate Council
5. PG GR Dean
6. PG MS GR Assoc Dean
7. PG ADPC
8. PG FS Office for GWC
9. PG FS GWC
10. PG Faculty Senate
11. PG FS Office for President
12. PG Registrar

Approval Path

1. 03/06/20 4:41 pm
Patty Murphy
(pxm491): Approved for PG Assessment and Accreditation
2. 03/09/20 1:44 pm
David Letson
(dletson): Approved for PG MES Chair
3. 03/11/20 1:10 pm
Tiffany Plantan
(tplantan): Approved for PG GR School
4. 03/23/20 3:02 pm
Alexander Mas

(amas): Approved

for PG Graduate
Council

5. 03/23/20 9:15 pm

Guillermo Prado

(gprado): Approved
for PG GR Dean

6. 03/23/20 9:16 pm

Brian Soden

(bsoden): Approved
for PG MS GR Assoc
Dean

7. 08/10/20 1:37 pm

Patty Murphy

(pxm491): Approved
for PG ADPC

History

1. Feb 25, 2020 by

Patty Murphy
(pxm491)

2. Mar 3, 2020 by

Patty Murphy
(pxm491)

Please list the authors of this proposal including name, rank/title, program/department, and school.

Proposer(s) Name

Dr. Kenneth Broad, Director, Abess Center, Professor, Department of Marine Ecosystem and Society, RSMAS, kbroad@rsmas.miami.edu

Change Type All Other Changes

Provide a brief
summary of the
change

This proposal is to merge the Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy offered through the Graduate School and administered by the Abess Center with the Ph.D. in Marine Ecosystems and Society program offered through RSMAS. As a result of the merger, RSMAS will become the home school for the Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy program. For all intents and purposes, this will be a governance change with only minimal impact on other aspects of the PhD program. Upon approval of transfer, the Ph.D. program would sit in the Department of

Marine Ecosystems & Society (MES) rather than directly under the Graduate School and would be renamed the Department of Environmental Science & Policy (ESP).

Career Graduate

Academic Structure

School/ College	Department
School of Marine & Atm Science Graduate School	Marine Ecosystems and Society Ecosystem Science & Policy

Plan Type Major and/or Degree

Degree Type Doctorate

Degree Name Doctor of Philosophy

Proposed Plan Code ESP

Plan Name Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy

Will there be any subcomponents within the program such as concentrations, specializations, thesis/non-thesis options, or tracks?

No

Effective Term Spring 2021

First Term Valid Fall 2020

Program Instruction Mode In Person

Where is the program offered?

Location	Please provide the % of instruction at each location.
Coral Gables Campus	50% 100
Marine Campus	50%

Program Length (Years) 5

Total Credits 60

To Be Published in the Academic Bulletin

Program Overview

Dept. Code: ECSD

Through the **Rosenstiel School of Marine Graduate School, the Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Atmospheric Science, the Department of Environmental Science and Policy** offers an interdisciplinary course of study leading to a Ph.D. **in Environmental Science and Policy**. ~~Details regarding areas of specialization can be found at the Abess Center website.~~ Doctoral students are supported by research assistantships, which include tuition remission ~~and~~ a monthly stipend. All students are also required to serve satisfactorily for two terms as teaching assistants in the **Ecosystem Science and Policy Abess Center** undergraduate program.

Program Mission Statement

Mission

The Environmental Science and Policy (**ESP**) ~~(ECS)~~ graduate program was formulated in response to increasing societal demand for academicians and practitioners at the Ph.D. level with interdisciplinary training aimed at addressing complex problems concerning the impact of human activity and global climate change on so-called linked social-ecological systems. Our graduate program targets top caliber students whose demonstrated skills and interests bridge science and social science, and who seek the theoretical and analytical skills to address human-environment problems from academic and applied perspectives.

Program Goals

Program Goals

The Ph.D. program is intended to provide students with the ability to work on interdisciplinary research problems using mixed methods, both quantitative and qualitative. The goal is for students to formulate dissertation projects that factor in both social and natural science approaches at the outset in order to further understanding of linked social-ecological systems.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate command of interdisciplinary environmental policy literature.

Students will demonstrate the ability to perform sound interdisciplinary analyses of environmental problems and formulate sound interdisciplinary research approaches.

Students will exhibit an ability to communicate effectively in oral presentations and in writing.

Curriculum Requirements

Curriculum Requirements

Core Courses

ECS 601 ESP 601 Course ESP 601 Not Found (Interdisciplinary Environmental Research: Introduction to the Why and the How)	3 3
ECS 603 ESP 603 Course ESP 603 Not Found (Interdisciplinary Environmental Methods)	3 3
ECS 605 ESP 605 Course ESP 605 Not Found (Interdisciplinary Environmental Law and Policy)	3 3
ECS 607 ESP 607 Course ESP 607 Not Found (Interdisciplinary Environmental Decision Analysis)	3 3
ECS 840 ESP 840 Course ESP 840 Not Found (Doctoral Dissertation)	12 3

Proposed Additional Courses 1	18
Additional Courses to get to 60 Credits	18
Examinations 2	
Dissertation 3	
Total Credit Hours	45

1 By the end of their second semester, students must submit a proposed group of additional courses, totaling at least 18 hours, related to their research interest and intended dissertation research area. This group of courses requires approval of both the student's advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

2 All Ph.D. students will be given comprehensive examinations following the conclusion of the core series of courses. A majority of the examination committee must be members of the graduate faculty of the University. In the event of failing to pass an examination, students are required to retake and pass the examination within one calendar year. By the end of their second year, students must present and defend a research proposal. Following successful completion of the comprehensive examination and research proposal defense, the student may apply to candidacy for the degree. Any student who fails to be admitted to candidacy for the degree within this two-year period can be dismissed from the program.

3 By the beginning of the second year, students should form a four-member dissertation committee; by the end of the second, write and defend a research proposal. Students may proceed with the dissertation after the dissertation committee has been appointed and the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate School have accepted the dissertation proposal. The dissertation must be an investigation of a substantial scholarly topic and bridge both scientific and policy aspects of the topic area. A final oral defense of the dissertation is required.

* To attain the Ph.D., students must take a minimum of 60 credits, of which at least 24 must be for coursework taken while in residence at the University of Miami. (Students entering the program with a master's degree in a related field may be given credit for up to 24 course credits.) Students must accrue at least 12 credits worth of dissertation research.

Plan of Study

Admission Requirements

Prerequisite

Students admitted to the program must have earned a bachelor's or master's degree and should display a strong interest in the interdisciplinary study of ecosystem science and policy.

Rationale

Rationale

Background:

Initiated by Donna Shalala and Mary Doyle, the Abess Center officially launched in 2002, when its charter was approved by the UM Faculty Senate. Its stated mission is to “create innovative, interdisciplinary initiatives designed to bridge the gap between science and environmental policy.” The undergraduate program, including its curriculum supporting a BA or BS major and minor in Ecosystem Science and Policy, was up and running in August 2004 and currently enrolls 96 majors and 59 minors (per 2019-2020 Fact Book). *The undergraduate program is seated under the College of Arts & Sciences and under this proposal would remain there.* The Abess Center and associated interdisciplinary activities and non-PhD programs would also *remain unchanged* under this proposal.

Currently, the Abess Center academic and non-academic components include:

The Abess Center – an independent university wide center reporting directly to Provost;

PhD program in Environmental Science & Policy launched in 2010 and administered by the Graduate School with PhD advisors from any school at UM;

Joint JD/PhD program in Environmental Science & Policy, launched in 2014 with the School of Law;

Undergraduate program in Ecosystem Science & Policy program administered by College of Arts & Sciences;

Exploration Science MPS program, launched in 2013, administered by RSMAS;

Environment, Culture and Media Program MPS and MA program, launched in 2017, administered by the Graduate School (includes the Science, Media, & Storytelling summer study abroad course in Lugano, Switzerland, through Franklin University Switzerland, started in 2019);

Abess Faculty Scholars Program: Initiated in 2019, with overall aim of increasing interdisciplinary environmental education, research, and outreach at UM and to the wider community. Scholars engage in a wide range of high impact activities, including teaching, developing workshops, giving public and university-wide talks about pressing environmental issues, and fostering civic engagement;

The Abess Center Faculty Advisory Committee, consisting of faculty from most, if not all UM schools. The FAC provides guidance and a sounding board for academic and non-academic decisions and will continue to play this role under the new proposed administrative structure of the PhD Program

Rationale:

The reasoning behind the proposal for the Abess Center's PhD in Environmental Science & Policy Program with the current MES PhD program is to address several abiding structural issues that impede our fulfilling our mission more fully. These include:

The bulk of current teaching and PhD advising is handled by MES faculty and this is anticipated to increase given upcoming MES hires that will target interdisciplinary policy scholars;

Abess Center is in violation of stipulations of the original charter regarding the number of dedicated faculty and the merger would be a significant movement toward fulfilling the charter;

Lack of dedicated Abess faculty has hindered programmatic consistency in the PhD and other academic programs and the merger would ensure greater long-term stability in teaching and mentoring;

MES has been unable to develop a functioning PhD program, but recent changes in the departmental structure and anticipated hiring described above provide the opportunity to support the Abess PhD program in critical areas that have been problematic to date, especially through promised faculty hires.

The proposal to move the PhD program was in large part motivated by the recent external review of the Abess Center's PhD program.

The committee's executive summary, submitted in April 2018, notes the major issues and makes recommendations [emphasis added for the most relevant points]:

Executive Summary

The following report summarizes the findings and recommendations from the external review committee's assessment of the Ph.D. Program in Environmental Science and Policy ("ESP") at the University of Miami's Abess Center. The ESP Ph.D. program is truly innovative in its commitment to interdisciplinarity and problem-driven science. The ability of the ESP program to accomplish its ambitious goals has been predicated on the unparalleled dedication of a small cadre of faculty and administrative personnel. While the ESP program has accomplished much, there are areas where improvements are needed to sustain the program's reputation and successes in the future. Some of the low-cost improvements the committee recommends are: establishing consistent guidelines for student advising and mentoring; identifying opportunities for curriculum efficiencies; institutionalizing an Abess Center student "culture"; and minimizing structural hurdles for faculty to engage with the Abess Center. The report that follows offers specific operational strategies for implementing these improvements. ***Beyond the low-cost improvements, the committee recommends that the University of Miami commit to hiring at least 3 to 4 additional faculty over the next 5 years. These faculty must be willing to make substantial commitments to teaching, research, and mentoring to the Center. These faculty could be hired in cooperation with various allied departments, or it may be beneficial to link the Abess Ph.D. program to an existing department with interdisciplinary leanings where the core faculty can be located.*** Maintaining a successful graduate program will eventually require new sources of energy and ideas and to build the capacity for future ESP program leaders. Thus, new faculty need to be groomed, supported, and trained to meet the goals of the Abess Center and the University of Miami.

These issues are not unique to UM. Interdisciplinary environmental policy PhD programs are relatively few in number across the United States (e.g., with similar programs at Stanford University, Princeton University, University of Michigan, and Carnegie Mellon University), and over the last decade these similar programs have also struggled with institutional barriers to interdisciplinary faculty hires and adequate faculty support for teaching, research advising and service within interdisciplinary graduate programs. UM has a unique opportunity as a nimble and

<https://next-bulletin.miami.edu/courseleaf/approve/?role=PG> FS GWC

advising, and service within interdisciplinary graduate programs. UM has a unique opportunity, as an adaptable institution, to solve the usual constraints on interdisciplinary success. We should be aiming to make the Abess PhD program one of the top five environmental science and policy programs in the nation within the next decade, building on the foundations laid in its first decade and the complementary strengths of departments in several UM schools. Below we elaborate on the interrelated issues that need to be addressed.

The original charter for the Abess Center includes language promising that:

Up to nine new faculty members will be hired to serve as permanent fellows of the center in various science and policy fields that complement our current strengths.

It has proven extremely difficult to fulfill this requirement because of the lack of available UM funds to create new permanent positions and the disciplinary traditions that dominate most departments, impeding consistent, full participation of faculty—particularly junior faculty—in interdisciplinary initiatives. The Abess Family, understandably, is unhappy with this aspect of the execution of the gift and is supportive of the plan to shift administrative responsibility to RSMAS.

As noted by the external review committee, the lack of dedicated faculty has posed a challenge for consistently staffing and establishing curricular consistency for our growing undergraduate teaching demands and increasingly, for our PhD program. The most viable path to fulfill the original charter and to stabilize a core faculty for curricular development and teaching is to identify a department that is inherently interdisciplinary, has desire for building a unique PhD program, and is slated to make several hires—i.e., RSMAS Department of Marine Ecosystems & Society (MES), which is currently rebuilding after some years of relative quiescence. The intellectual content of the Abess Center aligns with the stated vision of the current MES, and the new hires in MES, including Katharine Mach and Renato Molina, are already playing major roles with the Abess Center's PhD Program and serving as Abess Scholars for AY 19-20.

Further, RSMAS faculty—MES faculty in particular—are already playing a consistent, important role in terms of PhD advising, program administration, and teaching in the Abess Center PhD program, Exploration Science masters, and undergraduate programs. PhD chairs for graduates of the Abess Center's PhD Program in Environmental Science and Policy have been comprised of faculty from the following schools:

RSMAS faculty - 15

College of Arts & Sciences – 1

College of Engineering – 1

Miller School – 1

The advisor composition of current PhD students is:

RSMAS faculty – 10

College of Arts & Sciences – 9

Miller School – 1

UM non-departmental (Shark Research Lab) - 2

The MES department has had difficulty establishing a coherent vision for the future of the department, including the PhD program, which since its establishment in 2015 has not had much success in recruiting students (since 2015, MES has admitted and successfully recruited only 7 PhD students). The MES department is ready for rebranding, indicated by a large majority vote in favor of renaming the department to Department of Environmental Science and Policy and merging with the Abess PhD program which includes adopting the Abess PhD curricular requirements, vote tallied on March 3, 2020. The rebranding and anticipated rebuilding has adopted an interdisciplinary vision that will focus on policy and that extends well beyond the marine realm, providing

complementarity with and fostering linkages with other disciplines and UM schools. This shift is in full alignment with the Abess Center mission and the current Abess Center PhD in Environmental Science & Policy curriculum (see attached Vision statement). The Abess PhD (and undergraduate) program has been very successful in recruiting and graduating top students, but has had difficulty in establishing a consistent curriculum due to a lack of dedicated faculty.

Recent and pending MES retirements and two recent faculty hires who are extremely active in the Abess Center (advising 8 PhD students, teaching core courses, and serving as Abess Faculty Scholars) provide an opportunity for both rebuilding the MES department and for securing a core Abess dedicated faculty. Further, three tenure track policy hires for this department have been approved. These upcoming hires, along with the two most recent faculty hires and the one existing Abess Faculty Fellow (i.e., the current Abess Center director) who is in that department would bring the total to six "Abess Faculty" hires. New hires at the tenured level would be done in a manner that would benefit multiple schools whenever possible, particularly at the senior level where a joint appointment would pose no tenure risks to the faculty member. The Abess Center Advisory Committee will continue to provide strategic and practical guidance that assures that the PhD program, including hires, continue to align with the interdisciplinary mission of the Abess Center.

The merging of the two PhD programs will involve no curricular changes as the current Abess PhD curriculum will be adopted by the MES PhD program which does not have a set curriculum. Relatedly, once the merger is approved, students already enrolled in the MES PhD program (approx. 7) would have the option of switching degree names, while students already enrolled in the Abess PhD programs (currently 21) would earn a degree under the Environmental Science and Policy degree name. We have already begun working with the Graduate School to identify how to deal with MES students on a case by case basis and address any issues regarding requirements for graduation (including, for example, acceptable course equivalencies between MES and the new degree). We anticipate no significant challenges, given that most of the current MES PhD students are being mentored by faculty who are also mentoring ECS PhD students and are familiar with the requirements of both programs.

In addition to the positive benefits of this move, it would decrease vulnerability to potential threats to the Abess PhD program, Exploration Science, and undergraduate program stability, including:

- (1) New UM budget model may likely decrease motivation to 'play well with others', further making it difficult to get consistent teaching and curricular programs;
- (2) changes in Abess or RSMAS leadership could jeopardize RSMAS contribution to graduate and undergraduate programs;
- (3) the solidification would provide succession options in case of departure of the current key Abess Center faculty/administrators;
- (4) unhealthy competition with MES would be eliminated, which would be helpful to the department, now down to minimal tenure/tenure track faculty and without a viable PhD program, therefore needing to rebuild some type of environmental studies program.

These issues, including competition, are noted in the **2020 RSMAS Graduate Study Self Study Report** that independently comes to a similar conclusion [emphasis added to the most relevant part]:

Direction of the Program Over the Next 5 Years

The MES Department needs a successful PhD program to burnish the RSMAS brand and to meet the lofty research standards set by the other academic departments at RSMAS. Simply put, our relatively new PhD

degree program needs scaling up if it is to survive. We need a minimum number of PhD students to justify PhD level courses and to have productive cohort groups for students. ***A significant obstacle is that we are overlapping and thus competing with a similar PhD program in Ecosystem Science and Policy at the University's Abess Center.*** Programs that largely duplicate one another are inefficient and confusing to administer, and that has been our experience. Candidly, five years from now, only one of these PhD programs will likely exist, and ideally, it would have the best features of both (e.g., an endowment, University* wide collaborations, etc.).

Transferring the Abess PhD programs to the new Department of Environmental Science and Policy could transform the interdisciplinary environmental PhD program at Rosenstiel into a flagship PhD program for the school, tapping the strengths of the entire University. Through its coursework and professional training approaches, the PhD program would robustly enable interdisciplinary research for students across departments.

It should be noted that the above issues have been discussed with the Abess Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from every UM school, except the Frost School of Music and Miller School of Medicine, who gave extensive feedback that has been incorporated into this proposal. The RSMAS School Council will vote on the proposed merger at the mid-March RSMAS School Council meeting.

Concerns & Approach:

The primary concern in shifting the PhD program administration under RSMAS is that the PhD program loses its current identity that includes a broad swath of topics and disciplines, including the humanities, arts, and terrestrial focused research. *Several steps will be taken to not only ensure continued interdisciplinarity and linkages to the wider UM community, including the continued encouragement of participation of PhD advisors from any UM school, but also to expand these characteristics of the PhD program, including:*

Changing name of the Department of Marine Ecosystem & Society to "Department of Environmental Science & Policy" to indicate the broadening beyond the marine realm (existing faculty already work on a range of non-marine issues including hazards, agriculture, and a host of land-based climate related issues);

Any UM faculty who have been approved as Graduate Faculty will be able to serve as primary advisor for an Abess PhD;

New hires would target complementarity and if feasible, joint appointments with other UM schools in cases where faculty come in at tenured level;

Current Abess PhD curriculum, which includes a range of non-marine disciplines, would continue as is;

All recruitment and website information will be modified to highlight the interdisciplinary/university-wide reach of the PhD program and its linkage to the Abess Center;

The financial model of the proposed PhD program for tuition, IDC, table of credits, etc. will follow the current RSMAS business model with analogous cases of other PhD fellowships (e.g., NSF GRF, Maytag, UM & Dean's Fellowships, etc.). For PhD advisors from outside RSMAS, the PhD model will remain as it currently stands;

Environmental Science & Policy PhD students admitted into the program must fulfill the interdisciplinary criteria.

Students who receive funding from the Abess Center will be identified as "Abess PhD Fellows."

A secondary concern is the decision making regarding Abess Center funds that are used to support a host of activities in addition to PhD stipends and field research. The only funds that would be allocated to RSMAS would be those funds directly associated with the PhD student stipends. All other endowment and operational funds would remain with the Abess Center to pursue university wide activities, and will be managed by the director(s) of the Abess Center in consultation with the Abess faculty advisory board.

Finally, an anticipated benefit of shifting the PhD administrative aspects such as admissions and other logistical work to the already existing RSMAS operations is to open up bandwidth for the Abess Center staff for expansion of university wide Abess Center initiatives and fundraising (e.g., expand Abess Faculty Scholars program, workshops, events, certificate programs, visiting scholars programs, and other interdisciplinary initiatives). The impressive Graduate Studies Office staff at Rosenstiel will benefit as well from a thriving program within the Department of Environmental Science and Policy.

In order to codify the details of the funding and decision making structures through the transition and beyond in the event of changes in administration, etc., an MOU between the Abess Center and the Provost's office has been developed (see attached MOU).

Market Demand

Relationship to Other Programs

Relationship to Undergraduate and Professional Programs

Library Resources Available and Needed to Support the Program

Laboratory Facilities, Equipment, and Space Available and Needed to Support the Program

Other Resources Available or Needed to Support the Program

Curriculum

Program Curriculum

Upload Syllabi for Any New Courses

Proposed Schedule of Course Offerings for the First Three Years

CIP Code

Proposed CIP Code

Faculty

Program Directors

Upload CV(s)

Program Faculty

Upload CV(s) Grad

Students

Applicant Pool

Enrollment Projections

Teaching or Research Assistants

Administration

Program Administration

Comparison

Peer Comparisons

Documents

Attach Supporting Documentation [ESP Attachments.pdf](#)

Reviewer

Comments

Patty Murphy (pxm491) (03/06/20 4:41 pm): The change in organizational oversight does not require notification to or approval from SACSCOC. The current program courses will have a new subject code but they are the same courses.

David Letson (dletson) (03/09/20 1:44 pm): The MES faculty voted unanimously on 4 March 2020 to approved the proposal.

Alexander Mas (amas) (03/23/20 3:02 pm): The Graduate Council met to discuss this proposal on March 17, 2020. No concerns were expressed by Council members.

Key: 405

Appendix I: Vision statement for RSMAS Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society

The current Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society is proposing a focus on the interdisciplinary research and policy analysis necessary to address the world's environmental challenges. Signaling the broadening of the Department's mission well beyond the marine realm, we will change our name to The Department of Environmental Science and Policy. Research and teaching will support people in solving complex problems where policy, management, and science combine. The most pressing sustainability problems span scales. Based in Miami, South Florida, and the Caribbean, we uniquely connect local issues to processes unfolding across the nation and globe. Recognizing that no one department can house all the necessary disciplines to address our "wicked" environmental problems, the newly named department will collaborate closely with departments from all UM schools in developing joint curricular and research initiatives that combine environmental science and policy.

Core areas of focus within the department will include climate change risks and responses, biodiversity conservation, environmental justice, cultural resources and heritage, and natural resource management. Current and anticipated faculty members have expertise across a range of disciplines. Their diverse disciplinary perspectives include environmental economics, cultural anthropology and archaeology, the psychology of decision-making, policy analysis and decision support, aquaculture, exploration science, and environmental law. Faculty are both researchers and practitioners. In their work, they incorporate societal engagement, public outreach, and experiences with government, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

The Environmental Science and Policy graduate programs will assume responsibility for the highly successful Abess Center PhD in Environmental Science and Policy. This PhD program, along with the current successful masters programs, seeks to train the next generation of interdisciplinary scholars and practitioners. The department's graduates become leaders of environmental sustainability. Our educational approach emphasizes the key skills needed for research to inform sound decision-making—and for knowledge to be actionable for communities and policymakers.

The faculty's research, teaching, and engagement provide opportunities for students to practice environmental leadership that bridges public, private, and nonprofit sectors. We are motivated by commitments to sustainable communities and engaged individuals. Integral in our educational mission are the collaborations and conversations necessary for innovating vibrant solutions that protect people and the planet and for ensuring just and healthy societies.

New directions for our undergraduate and graduate programs will continue to emphasize our core and compelling strengths as an interdisciplinary nexus. To this end, we foster interactions among scholars across UM and collaborations that connect science and society. These priorities are advanced through the strong linkages with the Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy, which aims to connect academic initiatives with public and private sector decision makers.

Within a decade, we aim to be a top national PhD program. The department will expand in critical areas. New hires will deepen and energize our interdisciplinary strengths. Searches will target exceptional interdisciplinary environmental scientists with experience working in the decision sciences, environmental justice, planning and development, and policy sciences.

Appendix II: MOU between UM Central Administration and the Abess Center

The purpose of MOU is to guarantee certain types of ongoing support and that, in the case of actions on the part of any of the collaborating parties, UM Central Administration will intervene appropriately.

The Abess Center will remain a university wide center and the director(s) of the Center will continue to report directly to the Provost;

Abess Center funds generated from endowment and other sources that are not used for PhD support shall remain as discretionary funds under the management of the Abess Center; such funds may only be used with the approval of the director(s) of the Center;

A chair of the newly formed Environmental Science and Policy department, along with the departmental administrative structure, must be put in place prior to transition;

The University agrees to initiate searches for 3 tenure track faculty within 3 years of this MOU's signing (with potential to recruit 6 faculty if joint appointments with other schools and colleges at UM); and to establish an *Abess Distinguished Faculty* designation to recruit top scholars with joint appointment with other Schools (note that tenured faculty will be hired for these joint appointments as junior hires in joint positions has proven unsuccessful);

UM faculty with positions in schools or colleges outside RSMAS can serve as chairs of PhD committees of Environmental Science and Policy PhD students, while at least one RSMAS faculty member from the Department of Environmental Science & Policy shall sit on the committee;

Recommendations for admissions to the PhD program will be made by a selection committee led by the Department Chair (or designee) and 3 faculty appointed by the Chair which may include non-RSMAS faculty;

Abess Center fellowships through the Department of Environmental Science and Policy PhD program will follow the current RSMAS business model regarding students with fellowships such as the Maytag, NSF GRF, etc. and the Provost's office/central administration will continue to provide the current level of support to the PhD program after the merger (i.e., 1 year of stipend and 5 years tuition waivers);

Should the Abess Center determine that the PhD program is not fulfilling the interdisciplinary mission of the Abess charter, it reserves the right to withhold further fellowship funding;

With regard to the existing Exploration Science Masters program, currently jointly administered by RSMAS and the Abess Center with revenue splitting, RSMAS will assume all salaries and expenses for the program beginning in 2021 and will in turn receive all tuition revenues.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
ROSENSTIEL
SCHOOL of MARINE &
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE



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Fax: 1 305 421-4711
Web Site: <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu>

To: Professor Linda Neider, Chair, UM Faculty Senate

From: Roni Avissar, Dean, RSMAS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roni Avissar', written over the printed name.

Date: March 23, 2020

Subject: Proposed shift in Abess PhD program and MES Department name change

Please accept this memo of support for (1) the proposed shift in administration of the Abess Center's Ph.D. program in Environmental Science & Policy to RSMAS, and (2) the change in name of the RSMAS Department of Marine Ecosystem Science & Policy to Department of Environmental Science & Policy. While the rationale for both changes are articulated in convincing detail in the proposal, I would like to emphasize that these changes will not only fulfill the obligations of the Abess Center charter in terms of dedicated faculty hires, but will also provide a unique opportunity to develop a core environmental interdisciplinary social science cadre of top scholars that will be dedicated full time to cutting edge research and curricular opportunities that will enhance UM-wide collaboration.

The proposal highlights many safeguards that are intended to keep incentives in place for participation of faculty from across UM to serve as primary Ph.D. advisors as well as committee members. This should increase collaboration between RSMAS scientists and scholars from all disciplines and schools at UM to tackle "wicked" environmental problems that have been identified as priorities in the UM Roadmap. It should be noted that RSMAS currently provides about 50% of the instructors for the Abess Center's undergraduate program in Ecosystem Science & Policy (ECS) that is administered under the College of Arts & Sciences. Furthermore, the current Ph.D. program in Marine Ecosystem Science & Policy will be eliminated to strengthen the Program in Environmental Science & Policy, motivating us for the change of name of the Department. The development of a RSMAS department with faculty dedicated to the Abess Center's mission will provide more stability in this cross-school academic collaboration.

In summary, the proposed shift to align the Ph.D. program with an inherently interdisciplinary department – which was recommended in the recent 5-year External Ph.D. review by eminent interdisciplinary scholars – represents the chance to enrich existing academic programs across UM, enhance a successful Ph.D. program, fulfill a longstanding commitment to a major UM donor, and rebrand and re-build an academic department at UM that will be competitive with the top programs in the nation.

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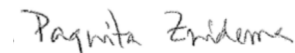
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20 March, 2020

Dear Linda Neider,

This letter serves to notify you that on March 13, 2020, the School Council of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) unanimously approved the proposal for the change in governance from the Graduate School to RSMAS of the Abess Center's PhD program in Environmental Science and Policy, and concurrently, the change in name of the RSMAS "Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society" to "Department of Environmental Science and Policy". The PhD program would reside within the re-named RSMAS Dept. of Environmental Science and Policy. The RSMAS School Council asked for some minor clarifications within the document and these have been addressed. Overall, there was strong sentiment that the merger was a win-win-win situation for RSMAS, the Abess Center, and for the wider UM community as it would increase the opportunity for interdisciplinary research opportunities.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paquita Zuidema, Professor
Speaker for the RSMAS School Council