



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Julio Frenk  
University President

**From:** Linda L. Neider  
Chair, Faculty Senate

**Date:** August 28, 2020

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-06(B) – Change the Name FROM the Department of Marine Ecosystems & Society (MES) TO Department of Environmental Science & Policy (ESP), Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS)

Reference Legislation #2020-04(B) and #2020-05(B)

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The Faculty Senate, at its August 26, 2020 meeting, had no objections to the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) proposal to change the name FROM the Department of Marine Ecosystems & Society (MES) TO Department of Environmental Science & Policy (ESP). This name change aligns with our peer institutions and is part of the larger transfer of the Abess Center PhD program transfer in Environmental Science & 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 #2020-06(B) – Change the Name FROM the Department of Marine Ecosystems & Society (MES) TO Department of Environmental Science & Policy (ESP), 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): \_\_\_\_\_



# Non-Curricular Proposal Submission Form

Please refer to the [Procedures for Program Changes](#) document for information on the approvals and notifications needed for program changes and the [Proposal Submissions Specifications](#) document for an explanation of the process and a list of the materials required.

(Please note that change approvals can take 2 semesters to complete.)

**FORM INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Save/download the form as a pdf.
2. After completing the information below, print and scan the form.
3. Insert it with the background materials that are specified, in the order listed, and submit to [facsen@miami.edu](mailto:facsen@miami.edu).

**Please note:** only scanned versions can be accepted.

Include this checklist at the beginning of each proposal.

## KEY CONTACT PERSONNEL INFORMATION

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First Name

Kenneth

Last Name

Broad

Proponent's Title

Director, Abess Center for Ecosystem  
Science & Policy

Department, if applicable

Dept. of Marine Ecosystems & Society

School/College

Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

E-mail

kbroad@miami.edu

Phone

305 528-6319

Title of Proposal

Proposal for transfer of Abess Center PhD program in Environmental Science & Policy to the Rosenstiel School (RSMAS)

## MANDATORY MEMORANDA AND FORMAT

*Please check that each item listed below is included in the proposal package of materials, in the ORDER as listed. The applicable title (i.e. Letter of Explanation, Memo from the Dean, etc. ) is to precede each section in the materials.*

Only proposals conforming to this format will be accepted.

### 1. This completed checklist.

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### 2. Letter of explanation. (2-3 pages only, double spaced, 12 pt font)

Yes     No

If no, explain why:

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### 3. A memo from the dean(s) signifying approval of the faculty of the relevant School(s) / Colleges(s).

Yes     No

If no, explain why:

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### 4. A memo that all affected or relevant School / College Council(s) have approved.

Yes     No

If no, explain why:

**5. A memo from the department chair(s) signifying approval of the faculty of the relevant department(s).**

Yes     No

If no, explain why:

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**6. A memo from the Office of Accreditation and Assessment (OAA) if the proposal involves academic programs (degrees, certificates, majors, minors, concentrations, specializations, tracks, etc.) such as new programs, closing programs, or program changes (such as changes in requirements, program length, modality, name, location).**

Applicable     Not applicable.

If not, explain why:

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**7. A memo from the Graduate School Dean signifying approval of the Graduate Council (for graduate programs only) OR the University Curriculum Committee (for undergraduate programs only) recommendation form.**

Applicable     Not applicable.

If not, explain why:

**8. Academic Deans Policy Council (ADPC) approval, for interdisciplinary issues and as appropriate. Please consult with the Dean of the Graduate School or the Secretary of the Faculty Senate to check if this is needed.**

Yes       No

If no, explain why:

This was not a stated requirement.

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**9. Additional required documents as listed on the "Proposal Submissions Specifications," i.e. market analysis, budget information, assessment of library collections, etc. as specified.**

List additional documents included:

N/A

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End form.

# UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



Assessment and Accreditation  
Gables One Tower 1320 S. Dixie Hwy.  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

Phone: 305-284-5120  
Fax: 305-284-4929  
oaa.miami.edu

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2020

TO: David Letson, Interim Chair, Marine Ecosystems & Society Department  
RSMAS

FROM: Patty Murphy, Associate Provos *PBM*  
Office of Assessment and Accreditation

RE: **Renaming of MES Department to Environmental Science and Policy**

RSMAS notified my office of its intent to rename the department of Marine Ecosystems and Society to Environmental Science and Policy as part of its proposal (submitted separately via CIM) to merge its Ph.D. in Marine Ecosystems and Society with the Graduate School's Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy and transfer ownership of the latter program within the renamed department in RSMAS.

SACSCOC does not require notification or approval of changes to academic departments.

Please contact me if you have any questions at [pattymurphy@miami.edu](mailto:pattymurphy@miami.edu).

cc: Faculty Senate  
Karen Beckett, University Registrar  
Roni Avissar, Dean, RSMAS  
Guillermo Prado, Dean, Graduate School

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TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: David Letson, Interim Chair, Marine Ecosystems & Society

SUBJECT: department name change

Date: March 24, 2020

Cc: Roni Avissar, Paquita Zuidema, Katharine Mach, Kenneth Broad

This memo is in support of the proposal that includes the shift in governance of the Abess PhD in Environmental Science and Policy and the change of the name of the RSMAS Department of “Marine Ecosystems and Society” to “Environmental Science and Policy.” The faculty of the Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society met on February 28, 2020 to discuss the proposal. The MES faculty consists of eight tenured and tenure-earning faculty; three research faculty; and four lecturers.

On March 4, 2020, an electronic vote was held. All faculty, including tenure/tenure earning, research faculty, and lecturers voted unanimously – with no abstentions - in favor of BOTH the shift in the PhD program and the change in department name to Environmental Science and Policy.



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
**ROSENSTIEL**  
**SCHOOL of MARINE &**  
**ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE**

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Department of Atmospheric Sciences  
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science  
University of Miami  
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, FL 33149, USA

Phone: 305-421-4276 Email: pzuidema@rsmas.miami.edu

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

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ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE



**Office of the Dean**  
Science and Administrative Building 107  
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, FL 33149-1031  
Phone: 1 305 421-4000  
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 that reads "Roni Avissar".

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.