

Proposed Cross-College Major in Environment and Sustainability

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Overview

- Starting point: Existing major in Environmental and Sustainability Sciences in CALS.
- Key change #1: Make it a cross-college major open to both CALS and A&S students.

Note: This required changes in structure of major to fit within A&S curriculum.

- Key change #2: Broaden scope of major to include environmental humanities.

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Widely vetted by faculty from both colleges:

- 2014: Two A&S committees studied possibility of Environmental Studies major in A&S
- Fall 2015: A&S-CALS cross-college committee studied possibility of a cross-college major (Feb 2016 proposal)
- Spring 2016: Proposal widely distributed, feedback collected (via fora and written comments)
- Summer 2016: A second A&S-CALS cross-college committee reviewed feedback (Aug 2016 proposal)
- Fall 2016: Further feedback solicited from all faculty in both colleges
- Fall 2016: Second cross-college committee reviewed feedback and prepared final proposal.
- Jan 2017: Votes taken in both colleges—cross-college major approved in both colleges.

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Five documents provided:

- a cover letter from Max and me
- the final proposal (from Nov 2016)
- a statement of commitments from the deans (from Nov 2016)
- the report of a first committee (from Feb 2016)
- the report of a second committee (from Aug 2016)

There are still many details to be worked out, including:

- revised learning objectives
- modifications to governance structure
- design of new courses
- developing MOUs between participating departments and with faculty participants

If the Faculty Senate and Provost approve this proposal, we'll start working on details while this goes through the review process with the state.

- possible implementation for Fall 2018 entering class?