

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST: Approval of Department Name Change in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint

CURRENT NAME: Department of Earth and Resource Science

RECOMMENDED NAME: Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment

EFFECTIVE DATES: September 1, 2016


The Dean and the Executive Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Michigan-Flint request approval to change the name of the Department of Earth and Resource Science to the Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment.

The name change to Geography, Planning, and Environment will reflect what the current major thrust of the department is and what it will be in the foreseeable future. In Fall 2016 we intend to restructure and rename our two current majors and update their three-character prefixes: Environmental Science and Planning will become Urban and Regional Planning (URP); and Energy and Sustainable Systems will become Environmental Science and Sustainability (ESS). We also will maintain the GEO course prefix for our certificate program in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and our prospective Master's program in GIS. Thus, this name change will more accurately portray the primary academic options in the department.

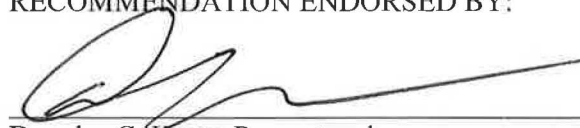
The proposed establishment of the Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment will contain approximately five tenure track faculty and three lecturers. Its establishment will provide the organizational unit needed to sustain and enhance the reputation of the University of Michigan-Flint for excellence in geography, planning, and environment.

The chair will be responsible for providing academic, administrative, and financial leadership for the department.

RECOMMENDED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas G. Knerr, Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

  
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Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

March 2016