To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Environmental Sciences Major

**PRESENT:**

Social Science Option
Developed for students whose interests are oriented toward the social context of the environmental sciences, this option is appropriate preparation for careers dealing with environmental regulation, land use planning, environmental impact analysis and administration of environmental protection programs. The Social Science option is also suitable for those intending to continue their education in such areas as natural resource economics, urban planning, and environmental law. Both the B.A. and B.S. degrees are available to students in the Social Science option.

**PROPOSED:**

Social Science Option
The Social Science Option is not currently accepting new students. Students interested in social science aspects of environmental sciences are encouraged to contact the Vice-Chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences or the CNAS Undergraduate Academic Advising Center for alternative programs of study.
Justification:

The Social Science Option was developed by ENSC faculty who specialize in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, thus the curriculum for this option is weighted heavily toward the economic study of the environment (e.g., ENSC006, ENSC143A, ENSC143B and ENSC143C). In September 2014, three key ENSC faculty involved with teaching required courses for this option (Drs. Baerenklau, Dinar and Schwabe) transferred to the School of Public Policy at UC Riverside and were given Cooperating Faculty Member status in ENSC. In addition, the sole remaining environmental economist in the ENSC Department, Dr. Keith Knapp, has indicated he will retire in the near future. Drs. Baerenklau, Dinar and Schwabe have indicated that they can continue to teach four of the required courses for the Social Science Option (ENSC006, ENSC143A, ENSC143B and ENSC143C) for a couple of years or until such time that all of their teaching obligations must be devoted to the School of Public Policy.

The ENSC Faculty feel that the current Department lacks the disciplinary background to continue the Social Science Option as it is presently structured. The Department seeks to replace the current Social Science Option with a new option, with the working title of “Environmental Sustainability”. As a first step in the transition towards a new option, better aligned with the disciplinary makeup of ENSC, we are requesting that the Social Science Option be eliminated for new students beginning in AY 2015-16. Because of catalog rights, the option will continue to be available to current ENSC majors, so we are requesting that new text be inserted into the catalog indicating that new students may not choose the Social Science Option. The Department anticipates having a draft proposal for the Environmental Sustainability Option ready for review by the beginning of AY 2015-16.

Approvals:

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Environmental Sciences: December 18, 2014
Approved by the Executive Committee of CNAS: February 17, 2015
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: April 8, 2015