TO BE ADOPTED:

The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate approves the proposal for M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in an Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences as described in the attached documents received in the Graduate Division in September, 1998.

JUSTIFICATION

The graduate programs in Environmental Sciences will be conducted by cooperating faculty in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. The College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, and the College of Engineering. The history of environmental action has been one of underestimation of the scope of and complexity of the problem. By EPA estimates, there are more than 400,000 hazardous waste sites with leaking storage tanks and drums, pesticide dumps, and piles of mining waste, not including military sites. EPA recently enacted new air quality standards that will greatly increase the number of non-attainment areas in the United States. The University of California, Riverside (UCR) has a history at the forefront of environmental training. UCR awarded the first Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Sciences in 1973. Because of the environmental leadership focused at UCR and in the Los Angeles/Riverside region, many of the Pacific Rim nations look to UCR for insight into the solution of problems in these developing regions. The goal of the proposed graduate program is to offer both training and exposure to the many facets of environmental science, and specialized study of a specific research topic. It will feature close collaboration between basic researchers in departments like chemistry and physics, and applied researchers in environmentally oriented programs. It will offer a program emphasis on multimedia applications at the land-air-water interfaces, at length scales ranging from molecular to regional. And, it will integrate management and policy with science throughout the educational phases of the program. There is a great need for broadly trained environmental experts with graduate-level education both in the United States and internationally. UCR is ideally suited by location, history, and expertise to provide that needed training. The proposed Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences will mobilize the experience and expertise of UCR’s environmentally oriented faculty in providing advanced educational opportunities for those interested in pursuing research, teaching, and professional careers in the wide spectrum of activities relevant to environmental science.

The proposal has been examined and approved by the following committees of the Academic Senate: Graduate Council, Planning and Budget, Educational Policy, and Library. The proposal has the approval of the Dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural sciences.
Helen L. Henry, Chair
Graduate Council

The Program Proposal (including memos of support) and Memos from the above mentioned Academic Senate committees are available in the Academic Senate Office for review.