**MEMORANDUM**

To: Melanie Brown, Curriculum Committee

From: Paul Ruscher, Interim Science Dean

Re: Curriculum change forms for Environmental Sciences classes

Date: 23 February 2016

Cc: Von Young, Claudia Owen

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This request involves a change in organization of material for our 4 present Environmental Science classes (ENVS 181, 182, 183, 184), into 3 modified 100-level classes and what we will teach as an experimental 200-level class in 2016-17.

The changes are motivated by several factors, including transferability of our classes into science major sequences, for which opportunities are now limited. We've consulted with faculty and staff at University of Oregon and Lewis & Clark College, two prominent environmental program hubs, and have determined that these changes are likely to streamline transfer options.

One of the major problems is the prefix for our courses, ENVS, is used to symbolize ***Environmental Studies*** rather than ***Environmental Science*** (for example, at University of Oregon). There is no standard statewide prefix for Environmental Science, so we propose ENSC.

Our ENVS 181 course will remain essentially the same but become ENSC 181 in this proposal.

Our ENVS 183 course will also remain essentially the same, becoming ENSC 183.

Our present ENVS 182 and 184 courses will become the new ENSC 182 course in this proposal and we estimate that about 25% of the content will change.

The remaining materials that will be kept in our program will involve the creation of a "capstone" environmental sciences course at the 200 level that we will first teach as a ENSC 299 course in 2016-17. We will develop that material with our colleagues at U of O in order to assure transferability of the entire sequence as a beginning science sequence for both their ***environmental studies*** and ***environmental science*** majors, thus putting it on par with introductory biology, chemistry, geology, or physics.

We thank you for your consideration of our proposal. We've also been in contact with the two College Now instructors at South Eugene High School and Churchill High School, as well as program coordinators for all of the CTE programs for which any ENVS courses are showing as either required, prerequisite, or directed electives, and have had no negative comments about this proposed change to our curriculum.