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September 27, 2006

University Curriculum Committee  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, ID 83843

Dear Committee:

I fully support the curriculum change to move the Environmental Science graduate programs from CLASS to COGS. The COGS curriculum committee (made up of the university-wide program directors) has approved the move. COGS has been recognized as the administrative home of graduate programs that cross multiple colleges in order to promote university-wide interdisciplinary programs.

The Environmental Science program has been functionally administered by COGS since the Neuroscience, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology and Environmental Science Ph.D. graduate programs were approved by the State Board of Education in February 2003. This administration includes both budget and reporting lines of authority.

This move will affect only graduate degrees, the undergraduate degrees will remain in CLASS. The splitting of the degrees between colleges, with graduate degrees in COGS and undergraduate degrees in CLASS, has precedent with the Interdisciplinary Studies degree which has always had its Masters degrees in COGS and its Bachelors degrees in CLASS. This move will not change the way the Environmental Science program or degrees are administered, it will simply allow the Registrar's office to represent the graduate degrees in a way that is clear and consistent with current practice.

Sincerely,

Margrit von Braun, P.E., Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Graduate Studies