FAU
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Florida Atlantic University

Item: AS: A- 4

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF DEGREE TERMINATIONS: MA IN GEOGRAPHY AND MS IN GEOLOGY

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the termination of the Master of Arts in Geography (45.0701) and the Master of Science in Geology (40.0601) to roll up into the Master of Science in Geoscience (40.0699).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Master of Arts in Geography and the Master of Science in Geology have had modest enrollment individually and it has been recommended by CAVP and by external program reviews that the two programs be merged into a single interdisciplinary degree program, the Master of Science in Geosciences.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Students are currently not being admitted into the individual degree programs and those that are in those programs will be able to complete their programs by Fall of 2017.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

All existing courses will continue to be delivered, so the loss of the degree programs will not result in a loss in faculty, courses or other resources.

Supporting Documentation: Program Termination Form, Program CIP Change Form
Presented by: Dr. Russell Ivy, Associate Provost for Programs and Assessment
Phone: 561-297-2353

PROGRAM TERMINATION FORM
Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

UNIVERSITY: Florida Atlantic University

PROGRAM NAME: MA in Geography

DEGREE LEVEL(S): Masters **CIP CODE:** 450701
(Ph.D., Ed.D., etc) (Classification of Instructional Programs)

OFFICIAL TERMINATION DATE: July 2016
(Last date that students will be accepted into program)

OFFICIAL PHASE-OUT DATE: December 2017
(Last date that data will be submitted for this program)

This is the form to be used for university requests to terminate doctoral degree programs and is recommended for use when terminating other programs. The request should be approved by the University Board of Trustees (UBOT) prior to submission to the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida for approval. Please fill out this form completely for each program to be terminated in order for your request to be processed as quickly as possible. Attach additional pages as necessary to provide a complete response. In the case of baccalaureate or master's degree programs, the UBOT may approve termination in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.012 (3), with notification sent to the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs. The issues outlined below should be examined by the UBOT in approving termination.

1. Provide a narrative rationale for the request to terminate the program.

Former departments of Geography and Geology were merged into a department of Geosciences. For a number of years the emphasis was in creating an applied Ph.D. in Geosciences. This Ph.D. has a minimal core requirement that allows students and their advisors to choose across the breadth of the department courses in Geography, Geology , Geophysics and Geographic Information Systems to put together a custom tailored program that develops a suitable multidisciplinary focus on the applied area in which the student is working. Now that the Ph.D. is in place and has been successful, it became time to consider merging other department programs. In the academic year 2014-2015, the department, citing low enrollment in two separate masters programs, voted to combine the two into a single program, an MS in Geosciences and after the new degree was approved, would terminate the MS in Geology and the MA in Geography. This was in line with program review recommendations by outside

consultants which also occurred in 2014-2015. The reviewers recommended the following:

Program Alignment- The Review Team recommends that the Department consider merging the MA Geography and the MS Geology degrees into a single MS in Geosciences degree patterned after the PhD in Geosciences.

When the BOG flagged the programs for low enrollment, the department was ready with an action plan to combine the degrees. This will result in doubling the number of majors in a single degree, and it will also attract a new cohort of students looking for a broad geoscience degree rather than a more narrowly focused Geology or Geography degree. We expect the number of graduate students to increase beyond the current numbers from the two degrees combined. Graduation rates will increase significantly in the next few years.

2. **Indicate on which campus(es) the program is being offered and the extent to which the proposed termination has had or will have an impact on enrollment, enrollment planning, and/or the reallocation of resources.**

The program is offered on the Boca Raton and Davie campuses, we expect enrollment to increase because the new program should be able to retain all the existing student and it will also attract many additional applicants with a science background who did not have a BS in Geology and were turned away by the long list of deficiencies required previously . These deficiency requirements are not being utilized by the new degree program, which has a streamlined set of specializations geared towards producing students with expertise in areas related to the local job market. Only a small percentage of the graduate courses have prerequisites.

Consequently, the new degree does not require changes to the delivery of courses, but will represent an increase in the number of majors beyond the combined degrees and an increase in enrollment in graduate courses.

3. **Provide an explanation of the manner in which the University intends to accommodate any students or faculty who are currently active in the program scheduled to be terminated. State what steps have been taken to inform students and faculty of the intent to terminate the program?**

The faculty in department meetings in Fall of 2014 and the Spring of 2015 moved to create the new degree. The Graduate Faculty voted in the Spring of 2015 to approve the new degree program which is largely modeled on the successful Ph.D. program in terms of content, and the department voted to terminate the two older masters degrees when the new degree became available.

Admissions to the old program were halted in September of 2015. Existing students were contacted and asked whether they wanted to continue in the older degrees or

shift to the new MS in Geoscience. Student Plans of Study were consulted and it was determined that the last student to graduate from the old programs would graduate no later than December of 2017.

Out of the existing 11 graduate students four students want to continue in the MA in Geography, and seven want to switch to the MS in Geoscience. No student has an anticipated graduate date later than Spring of 2017. To accommodate delays, we are planning on terminating the degree at the end of the Fall of 2017.

4. **Provide data (and cite source) on the gender and racial distribution of students and faculty. For faculty also list the rank and tenure status of all affected individuals.**

Faculty
Dr. Russell Ivy, Professor, Associate Provost
Dr. Colin Polsky, Professor, CES Director
Dr. Charles Roberts, Associate Professor and Associate Dean

Dr. Zhixiao Xie, Professor and Chairperson
Dr. Caiyun Zhang, Assistant Professor
Dr. Maria Fadiman, Associate Professor
Dr. Scott Markwith, Associate Professor
Dr. Tara Root, Associate Professor
Dr. Xavier Comas, Associate Professor
Dr. Edward J. Petuch, Professor
Dr. David Warburton, Associate Professor
Dr. Anton Oleinik, Associate Professor
Dr. Tiffany Briggs, Assistant Professor
James Gammack-Clark, instructor
Dr. Tobin Hindle, Associate Research Scientist

Faculty (Source: Banner)
Gender: Female 4, Male 11; Racial Distribution: Asian 2, Hispanic 1, White 12.

Students (Source: Banner)
Gender: Female 4, Male 7; Racial Distribution: American Indian or Alaska Native 1, Hispanic 3, While 6, race unknown 1

5. **Identify any potential negative impact of the proposed action on the current representation of females, minorities, faculty, and students.**

None

[signature]	09/28/15
Signature of Requestor/Initiator	Date
[signature] for Arde Drogueye	9-28-15
Signature of Campus EO Officer	Date
[signature] for Janet Blanks	9-28-15
Signature of College Dean	Date
[signature] for Gary Parry	10/5/15
Signature of President or Vice President for Academic Affairs	Date
Date Approved by the University Board of Trustees	
Signature of Chair, Board of Trustees	Date

REVISED 05/2012

PROGRAM TERMINATION FORM
Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

UNIVERSITY: Florida Atlantic University

PROGRAM NAME: MS in Geology

DEGREE LEVEL(S): Masters **CIP CODE:** 400601
(Ph.D., Ed.D., etc) (Classification of Instructional Programs)

OFFICIAL TERMINATION DATE: July 2016
(Last date that students will be accepted into program)

OFFICIAL PHASE-OUT DATE: December 2017
(Last date that data will be submitted for this program)

This is the form to be used for university requests to terminate doctoral degree programs and is recommended for use when terminating other programs. The request should be approved by the University Board of Trustees (UBOT) prior to submission to the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida for approval. Please fill out this form completely for each program to be terminated in order for your request to be processed as quickly as possible. Attach additional pages as necessary to provide a complete response. In the case of baccalaureate or master's degree programs, the UBOT may approve termination in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.012 (3), with notification sent to the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs. The issues outlined below should be examined by the UBOT in approving termination.

1. Provide a narrative rationale for the request to terminate the program.

Former departments of Geography and Geology were merged into a department of Geosciences. For a number of years the emphasis was in creating an applied Ph.D. in Geosciences. This Ph.D. has a minimal core requirement that allows students and their advisors to choose across the breadth of the department courses in Geography, Geology Geophysics and Geographic Information Systems to put together a custom tailored program that develops a suitable multidisciplinary focus on the applied area in which the student is working. Now that the Ph.D. is in place and has been successful, it became time to consider merging other department programs. In the academic year 2014-2015, the department, citing low enrollment in two separate masters programs, voted to combine the two into a single program, an MS in Geosciences and after the new degree was approved, would terminate the MS in Geology and the MA in Geography. This was in line with program review recommendations by outside

consultants which also occurred in 2014-2015. The reviewers recommended the following:

Program Alignment- The Review Team recommends that the Department consider merging the MA Geography and the MS Geology degrees into a single MS in Geosciences degree patterned after the PhD in Geosciences.

When the BOG flagged the programs for low enrollment, the department was ready with an action plan to combine the degrees. This will result in doubling the number of majors in a single degree, and it will also attract a new cohort of students looking for a broad geoscience degree rather than a more narrowly focused Geology or Geography degree. We expect the number of graduate students to increase beyond the current numbers from the two degrees combined. Graduation rates will increase significantly in the next few years.

2. **Indicate on which campus(es) the program is being offered and the extent to which the proposed termination has had or will have an impact on enrollment, enrollment planning, and/or the reallocation of resources.**

The program is offered on the Boca Raton and Davie campuses, we expect enrollment to increase because the new program should be able to retain all the existing student and it will also attract many additional applicants with a science background who did not have a BS in Geology and were turned away by the long list of deficiencies required previously . These deficiency requirements are not being utilized by the new degree program, which has a streamlined set of specializations geared towards the local job market. Only a small percentage of the graduate courses have prerequisites.

Consequently, the new degree does not require changes to the delivery of courses, but will represent an increase in the number of majors beyond the combined degrees and an increase in enrollment in graduate courses.

3. **Provide an explanation of the manner in which the University intends to accommodate any students or faculty who are currently active in the program scheduled to be terminated. State what steps have been taken to inform students and faculty of the intent to terminate the program?**

The faculty in department meetings in Fall of 2014 and the Spring of 2015 moved to create the new degree. The Graduate Faculty voted in the Spring of 2015 to approve the new degree program which is largely modeled on the successful Ph.D. program in terms of content, and the department voted to terminate the two older masters degrees when the new degree became available.

Admissions to the old program were halted in September of 2015. Existing students were contacted and asked whether they wanted to continue in the older degrees or

shift to the new MS in Geoscience. Student Plans of Study were consulted and it was determined that the last student to graduate from the old programs would graduate no later than December of 2017.

Out of the existing 10 graduate students eight students want to graduate in the MS in Geology, and two want to switch to the MS in Geoscience. No student has an anticipated graduate date later than Spring of 2017. To accommodate delays, we are planning on terminating the degree at the end of the Fall of 2017.

4. **Provide data (and cite source) on the gender and racial distribution of students and faculty. For faculty also list the rank and tenure status of all affected individuals.**

   Faculty
   Dr. Russell Ivy, Professor, Associate Provost
   Dr. Colin Polsky, Professor, CES Director
   Dr. Charles Roberts, Associate Professor and Associate Dean

   Dr. Zhixiao Xie, Professor and Chairperson
   Dr. Caiyun Zhang, Assistant Professor
   Dr. Maria Fadiman, Associate Professor
   Dr. Scott Markwith, Associate Professor
   Dr. Tara Root, Associate Professor
   Dr. Xavier Comas, Associate Professor
   Dr. Edward J. Petuch, Professor
   Dr. David Warburton, Associate Professor
   Dr. Anton Oleinik, Associate Professor
   Dr. Tiffany Briggs, Assistant Professor
   James Gammack-Clark, instructor
   Dr. Tobin Hindle, Associate Research Scientist

   Faculty (Source: Banner)
   Gender: Female 4, Male 11; Racial Distribution: Asian 2, Hispanic 1, White 12.

   Students (Source: Banner)
   Gender: Female 6, Male 4; Racial Distribution: Asian 1, Hispanic 2, White 5, unknown 2.

5. **Identify any potential negative impact of the proposed action on the current representation of females, minorities, faculty, and students.**
   None

Signature of Requestor/Initiator — Date: 09/28/15

Signature of Campus EO Officer — Date: 9-28-15

Signature of College Dean — Date: 9-28-15

Signature of President or Vice President for Academic Affairs — Date: 10/5/15

Date Approved by the University Board of Trustees

Signature of Chair, Board of Trustees — Date

REVISED 05/2012

PROGRAM CIP CHANGE REQUEST FORM
Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

UNIVERSITY: Florida Atlantic University

PROGRAM NAME: Geology

DEGREE LEVEL(S): M.S.

OLD/CURRENT CIP CODE: 40.0601

NEW/REQUESTED CIP CODE: 40.0699

NEW CIP CODE EFFECTIVE TERM: Spring 2016
(First term for students in the program using the new CIP code)

Please use this form to notify the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida that an institution intends to change the CIP code for an already existing degree program and begin reporting enrollments and degrees data under the new CIP code. This action will allow for more accurate data analysis of enrollment and degree productivity as well as it will initiate any necessary changes to the articulation manuals and online search tools.

1. **Provide a short background and rationale for the CIP change request.**

   The Department of Geosciences currently houses bachelors and masters programs in geography, geology and a doctorate in geosciences which combines certain subfields of geography and geology into an applied teaching and research focus. Feedback from a recent external program review coupled with the recent degree productivity review by the BOG have led the department to develop a plan to combine the Masters in Geography and the Masters in Geology into one single degree program that will mimic the teaching and research focus of the current doctoral program. **As an initial step in this process, the Department is requesting that the CIP for the M.S. in Geology be changed to the current CIP used by the Ph.D. in Geosciences.** This will be followed by a termination of the current M.A. in Geography (with teachout plan) and a curriculum revision of the M.S. in Geology such as described above along with a name change of the degree to M.S. in Geosciences—basically a roll up of the M.A. in Geography and the M.S. in Geology to the M.S. in Geosciences.

2. **Explain the impact of the proposed change on the current faculty and current and future students.**

There will be no impact on the current faculty as most of the coursework offered in the department will be the same. The degree requirements will simply be repackaged where students will be able to get an M.S. in Geosciences with either a slightly more geology focus or a slightly more geography focus (as is done with the doctoral degree). Current students in the geography and geology masters will be considered with a teach out plan as the final changes discussed in #1 have been rolled out. As identified in our external program review of Spring 2015, we feel that the future students will be better prepared for the South Florida geoscience/environmental job market and, for those who have the interest, certainly better prepared as potential candidates for our doctoral program.

3. **Provide evidence that considerations have been given to the impact of this CIP change on existing programs at the university, and the possibility that the program using the new CIP will duplicate already existing programs at other SUS institutions.**

   As the requested CIP change only impacts the programs housed in Geosciences, we see no negative impact on any other programs or departments at FAU. A positive change (when the entire plan in #1 is rolled out) will be to make the masters program in the Department of Geosciences more productive by combining students with an interest in geography with the students interested in geology into a single rolled up degree program (M.S. in Geosciences). As far as within the SUS, we see no impacts. FAU is the only university in the SUS that offers a combined geography/geology teaching and research focus in a degree program.

4. **If applicable, please explain how the CIP change will impact the program's listing in a Programs of Strategic Emphasis (PSE) category. Please provide a rationale to support the need for the program to be included in a PSE category, if it is not already included in a PSE category.**

   Both the current CIP for our Masters in Geology and the proposed CIP for the reworked Masters are in Programs of Strategic Emphasis categories.

5. **For baccalaureate programs please identify any related changes to the approved common prerequisites and degree program length.**

   Not applicable.

6. **If this is a baccalaureate program, please list the common prerequisites for the current CIP code as listed in the program's curriculum and the common prerequisites associated with the new CIP code.**

   Not applicable.

CIP Change Request Form – Signatures Page

Signature of Requestor/Initiator	Date 9/16/2015
Signature of College Dean/Chair	Date 9/16/2015
Signature of President or Vice President for Academic Affairs	Date 9/16/2015