

To: Dianne Hoff and James Warhola
From: George Criner, Director School of Economics
Date: 11-13-08
Re: BS Environmental Management and Policy degree elimination supplemental information

Cc: Alan Kezis, Associate Dean NSFA
Ivan Manev, Associate Dean BPPH

We were unaware that there was a UM program elimination process which was separate from the UMS process. Below I will provide discussion of major points from the UM program elimination process, which are not included in the UMS process.

Because our elimination is in essence a reorganization, many responses will be quite brief. For example, since it is expected that all BS-EMP majors would become BS-Economics majors (with a concentration in Resource and Environmental Economics and Policy), there will be few if any changes in faculty resources, number of courses offered or required, etc.

A. Proposal of programs to be considered for elimination will be made by the Dean *of the College within which the program is administered*. In the case of jointly administered programs, this proposal will be made by the deans jointly. In making program proposals, the dean(s) will:

1. Provide a brief describing *specifically* what program is to be eliminated, the reasons for the proposed elimination, and the projected savings (including the number of faculty, support staff, or other positions which will be eliminated) by such action. This brief *must* include but should not be limited to assessing:

See attached memos from Ashworth, Criner and supporting documentation for basic details.

a. *Program Quality*, including, if possible, comparisons to similar programs in peer institutions and/or to similar disciplines within the University of Maine. Consideration should be given to student placement and other output measures of quality.

Both the EMP and its replacement program (BS-ECO with a concentration in Resource and Environmental Economics and Policy) provide essentially the same package of course work. Both of these, old and new, are what we consider of high quality. The School of Economics has been ranked the top 37th publishing departments in the world in the area of environmental and resource economics (based upon English speaking peer reviewed articles in the field). Thus the faculty in the resource/environmental area are knowledgeable and productive, and these skills help ensure quality teaching in the area as well. Graduates from the EMP program have done well in the job market and at graduate schools. We

expect little change in course work delivery in this subject matter area. These programs are similar to programs at other larger universities and colleges.

b. *Centrality to the Mission of the University*, including centrality to generic university mission, centrality to the Land Grant mission, regional or national importance, and relationship/importance to other programs within the University of Maine.

Teaching in resource and environmental economics is central to all of the above, and we have no intension of eliminating this area, only repackage it.

c. *The Cost of Instruction*, including the salary, support, and other costs necessary to provide continuation of the program, and in the case of programs judged to be of low quality, the cost of bringing the program up to an adequate standard. In the case of programs which would potentially eliminate graduate teaching assistants, the cost of offsetting such elimination should be addressed.

Since the degree is being repackaged into a concentration, there is no change in cost of instruction. However, by eliminating a degree, and expanding a concentration, advising will be easier. This is useful given increases in SOE majors, from around 125 two years ago to nearly 200 at present, with increases each week.

d. *The Cost of Research*, including the research productivity of the faculty, including, but not limited to scholarly publications, extramural funding, and placement of research students.

Since the degree is being repackaged into a concentration, with no changes in research, there is no change in cost of research. In this case, to calculate the Cost of Research is beyond the scope of our analysis.

e. *The Cost of Public Service*, including public service productivity of the faculty, including both paid and unpaid professional consulting,

Since the degree is being repackaged into a concentration, with no changes in public service, there is no change in cost of public service. In this case, to calculate the Cost of Public Service is beyond the scope of our analysis.

f. *Program Demand*, including current and projected enrollments and demographic trends.

See supporting UMS documentation.

g. *Other Costs and Benefits*, including uniqueness of program within the University or region, special needs of constituent groups within Maine or New England, and projected enrollments and other demographic trends.

Both the EMP and its replacement program (BS-ECO with a concentration in Resource and Environmental Economics and Policy), are unique within UM and UMS. It is a strong program, and we feel enrollments will grow from current ranges (25 to 30) as overall SOE enrollments continue to increase. As Maine is such a resource dominated state, we feel it is important to maintain quality teaching and research in this area.

h. *Total Net Cost Savings of Program Elimination*, including an analysis of the cost of lost enrollment net loss of students who would not enroll in other programs, number of faculty and other positions eliminated (present cost of such positions should be shown. and a schedule of reductions by retirement. termination. etc. should be presented), cost of replacement or instruction by other programs, and loss of research revenue, A time profile of cost savings, limitations on registrations, etc., must be included. If appropriate, a statement of the political and other non-financial costs of program elimination should be included.

Since the degree is being repackaged into a concentration, with no changes in teaching, research or public service, there is no change in costs (or revenues). In this case, to calculate the net cost savings is beyond the scope of our analysis.