



Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
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REVISED MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. David R. Colburn
FROM: Michael V. Martin, Jimmy G. Check, Pramod P. Khargonekar, and Neil Sullivan
RE: The School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE)

The University's strategic plan calls for the transition of the College of Natural Resources and Environment to our administratively reorganized School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE). What follows is a proposal for handling the structural, governance and faculty participation issues associated with this transition.

Mission:

The SNRE will provide leadership that supports the university's commitment to academic programs in ecology, environment, and environmental sciences. It will offer campus-wide, interdisciplinary degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels that prepare students to understand the complex issues related to ecology, environmental science, environmental quality, ecological restoration and socio-economic stability and prepare them to participate in addressing these issues in the public arena and private sector. It will serve as the programmatic home for the University-wide degree programs.

Organization and Governance:

The SNRE will be administratively housed in UF-IFAS but will programmatically span the Colleges of Engineering (COE), Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), Veterinary Medicine (CVM), and other colleges.

The overarching administrative governance of SNRE will be the responsibility of the SNRE Administrative Board (SNRE-AB) composed of the Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources (chair), the deans of COE, CLAS, and CALS. The SNRE director will report to the SNRE-AB.

An Associate Director for Academic Programs advised by the SNRE Academic Council (SNRE-AC) will administer the academic programs of SNRE. The SNRE-AC will be composed of eleven (three from each of CLAS, COE, and CAS, one from CVM and one other) participating faculty and/or unit leaders from across all participating colleges. The SNRE-AC will also provide advice to the SNRE-AB and the SNRE Director.

Funding that is currently directly allocated to CNRE's academic programs will now be allocated to SNRE academic programs.

Faculty Participation:

Three kinds of appointments/relationships will serve to engage faculty in the mission of SNRE. The current affiliate faculty, 280 members from 49 departments and 11 colleges, will continue to constitute the major source of faculty expertise for the SNRE. Faculty “affiliated” with SNRE, do so because they teach courses included in the School’s curriculum, advise undergraduate students, chair graduate student committees, direct graduate student research, serve on graduate student committees, and/or work collaboratively on projects under SNRE auspices. Faculty from across the campus will be encouraged to participate in SNRE’s natural resources, ecology, and environmental programs. Current CNRE affiliate faculty will automatically have affiliate status in SNRE.

Another type of faculty will be those who will have part of their effort assigned to SNRE. In the case of 12-month appointees, this will be reallocated from their current splits. In the case of 9-month (.75 FTE) appointees, SNRE may pick an additional .25 FTE to specifically work in SNRE or part of the 9-month appointment may be assigned to the SNRE.

Over the long term, a relatively small number of faculty may be hired. Once identified through the hiring process, the incumbents will be invited to select their department tenure home. SNRE would not serve as the tenure home for faculty.

It is clear and acknowledged that programs in ecology and the environment are appropriately located in several colleges at UF. The primary responsibility for administration and direction of these programs rests with the relevant dean or local administrator. The reposition of the SNRE is not intended in any way to adversely impact the viability of these programs.

We will all work to build interdisciplinary academic programs in the SNRE which serve our students, this state and the university’s larger aspirations. We will seek to avoid redundancy, duplication and to foster program efficiency and effectiveness. Still, this commitment should in no way preclude or inhibit the scholarly pursuits of any individual faculty, group of faculty or academic unit.

It will be our shared responsibility to build and enhance the national and international stature of our programs in the environment and ecology on an individual and collective basis.

The Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources will work proactively with the university president, provost, other vice presidents and the deans to ensure that every unit serves our commitment to research, teaching and service in all areas related to the environment and ecology. This will include seeking new and/or replacement positions in all relevant colleges and units.

We request that this transition of the CNRE to the SNRE be made immediately.

MVM/jln

- Cc: C. E. Young
- S. R. Humphrey
- J. C. Cato
- R. K. Stocker