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2-8-1979

## Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Atmospheric Science

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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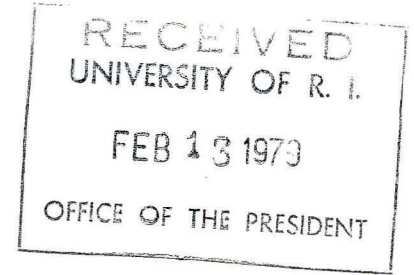
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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE  
BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate



TO: President Frank Newman

FROM: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Atmospheric Science

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on February 8, 1979 (date).
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on March 1, 1979 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

February 12, 1979  
(date)

Dorothy F. Donnelly  
Dorothy F. Donnelly  
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.
2. a. Approved \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Regents ✓ \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_.

*Never submitted to Board of Regents - Withdrawn from consideration*

2/26/79  
(date)

F. Newman  
President

Atmospheric Science Program Committee

ADD: Interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Atmospheric Science

A. Proposal

1. Concentration requirements:

A total of 127 credits is required for graduation, including a core of 32 credits identified with an asterisk (\*) in the suggested sequence that follows. Other courses listed below are either prerequisites or recommended courses. Modification of this schedule is possible through approval of the Atmospheric Science Coordinating Committee. Students intending to follow this program of study should consult with the committee chairperson as early in his or her college career as possible.

Freshman Year

First Semester: 16 credits  
ESC (GEG) 104 (3), 114 (1), MTH 141 (3), and general education requirements (9).  
Second Semester: 17 credits  
ESC (GEL) 105 (3), 106 (1), MTH 142 (3), BIO 111 (4), and general education requirements (6).

Sophomore Year

First Semester: 16 credits  
\*PHY 213 (3), \*285 (1), MTH 243 (3), and general education requirements (9).  
Second Semester: 16 credits  
\*PHY 214 (3), \*286 (1), MTH 244 (3), general education requirements (6), and free elective (3).

Junior Year

First Semester: 16 credits  
\*GEG 403 (3), \*EST 409 (3), CHM 101 (3), 102 (1), and free electives (6).  
Second Semester: 16 credits  
\*GEG 404 (3), \*MTH, EST, or CSC elective (3), CHM 112 (3), 114 (1), and free electives (6).

Senior Year

First Semester: 15 credits  
\*GEG 405 (3), \*PHY 406 (3), OCG 401 (3), and free electives (6).  
Second Semester: 15 credits  
\*GEG 406 (3), \*PHY 407 (3), and free electives (9).

2. Creation of a Coordinating Committee for Atmospheric Science:

An Atmospheric Science Coordinating Committee shall be appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The committee shall comprise at least three faculty members. The Dean, shall in consultation with committee, appoint a chairperson of the committee. The committee shall have primary responsibility for administering the program.

3. New Courses:

No new courses are being proposed for the program.

B. Rationale

1. Purpose:

The program is designed to serve students by clarifying and formalizing an already existing option for students, providing greater diversity in the undergraduate program, and promoting interdisciplinary efforts.

An undergraduate degree program in atmospheric science is not currently available in Rhode Island in spite of growing awareness of the importance of atmospheric science and growing interest in the field among undergraduates over the past several years. The proposed program will offer students the opportunity to pursue studies in an area of significant growth and will put them in a stronger competitive position for openings in graduate schools. In addition, this program will have the added benefits of fostering interaction between faculty members of various disciplines and increasing opportunities for interaction among undergraduate and graduate students in various specialties.

At the present time students are able to follow a program of studies essentially identical to the proposed program by undertaking a modified B.A. program within the Department of Geography and Marine Affairs, selecting a minimum of 28 credits in meteorology, climatology, and related subjects, especially mathematics and physics.

The proposed Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Atmospheric Science will clarify and formalize this already existing option and will lend greater visibility to the program which in turn will be beneficial for attracting students committed to pursuing an undergraduate degree in atmospheric science and funds from sources outside the University.

2. Staff and Facilities:

The Atmospheric Science Degree Program requires no additional staff or facilities. The courses for this concentration already exist and are being taught by members of the Departments of Geography and Marine Affairs, Computer Science and Experimental Statistics, Mathematics and Physics. Facilities are adequate to handle anticipated enrollment and include the University's Alden weather-chart receiver, an on campus climatological station that has been in continuous operation since 1893 and the weather sensors located on the roof of Washburn Hall. Library holdings in atmospheric science have increased during the past few years. Presently the collection, at the main library and at Pell Library, is considered sufficient for the operation of the program.

In August 1978 the University was selected by the National Climatic Center of the Department of Commerce as the site for an Office of the State Climatologist. Location of this facility at URI will permit further expansion of the University library's holdings in atmospheric science, particularly its collection of climatological data, and it is expected that the office will interact positively with the B.S. degree program. Dr. James M. Havens is the State Climatologist.

3. Cost:

It is estimated that the cost of the proposed program will be about \$600 for each of the first two years. Of this amount \$400 will be required for promotional literature and \$200 for office supplies. During the third and fourth years the anticipated cost, for office supplies, will be about \$300 per year.