

Approved by the Regents
April 19, 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: Program in the Environment, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and School of Natural Resources and Environment

ACTION REQUESTED: Authorization to Allow the Program in the Environment to Appoint Faculty

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

In November 2001 the Regents approved a request for a joint degree program for the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the School of Natural Resources and Environment. The Program in the Environment (PitE) was established as a "funding only" unit and was given a budget for teaching by faculty with appointments in other schools and colleges. The purpose of this request is to change the program's status to allow faculty to hold joint appointments in PitE. This change will not enable PitE to serve as a tenure home for appointed faculty.

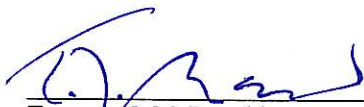
PitE has been an extremely successful program, surpassing its original estimate of 50 majors (concentrators) to reach 158 majors in just four years. The program currently ranks 16th among the more than 40 College programs and departments in terms of its total number of majors and minors. It is also the largest College program granting only a bachelor's degree.


To continue to be successful, an undergraduate program must regularly offer a consistent and coherent sequence of courses so that students can complete a degree in a timely manner. To do this, PitE must attract a dedicated pool of faculty to call upon for teaching needs. Currently the College provides funding for the courses and PitE recruits faculty from Michigan schools and colleges to teach those courses. This involves an enormous effort each year and the final course offerings do not consistently satisfy all the students' needs. The current model does not provide the program with authority to offer needed courses in a timely fashion if faculty choose not to volunteer. Having a dedicated faculty would also resolve issues around teaching performance, faculty advising, and strength of courses.


We seek this change to enable PitE to establish a stable core curriculum and have control over that curriculum. We respectfully request approval to offer joint appointments in the Program in the Environment.

RECOMMENDED BY:

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:


Terrence J. McDonald,
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts


Teresa A. Sullivan, Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs


Rosina M. Bierbaum
Dean and Professor,
School of Natural Resources and
Environment

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