



MEMORANDUM

To: Executive Committee of Faculty Council (January 18, 2016)
Faculty Council (February 29, 2016)

From: Professor Bryan Karney
Associate Dean, Cross-Disciplinary Programs and
Chair, Division of Environmental Engineering and Energy Systems

Date: January 8, 2016

Re: **Closure of the Division of Environmental Engineering and Energy
Systems**

REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a major policy matter that will be considered by the Executive Committee for endorsing and forwarding to Faculty Council for vote as a special motion (requiring a 2/3 majority of members present and voting to carry).

BACKGROUND

The Division of Environmental Engineering was established in November 1995 to implement and administer the new interdisciplinary undergraduate collaborative program in Environmental Engineering. The Division oversaw the core environmental courses of the program and worked with the departmental programs to ensure appropriate curricula for the students. In 1996, the Division took over the administration of the Faculty's graduate collaborative program in Environmental Engineering.

In 2006, the mandate of the Division expanded to include issues relating to sustainable energy with the creation of the Engineering Science Energy Systems Option and the Minor in Sustainable Energy. The name was changed in 2007 to the Division of Environmental Engineering and Energy Systems.

With the creation of the Cross-Disciplinary Programs Office (CDPO) in 2009, responsibility for the management of undergraduate interdisciplinary programs was consolidated there and the Division was left responsible for only the graduate collaborative program. That program was closed in December 2015.

STRUCTURE

The Division previously operated with a chair (50%) and an administrative assistant responsible for office management and student counselling. These responsibilities and roles and the budget for the Division were effectively transferred with the creation of the CDPO to the Associate Dean, Cross-Disciplinary Programs and the Manager and Student Counsellor for the office.

An Executive Committee was also in place in the Division, which included members from the departments involved in the collaborative programs (most recently, Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, and Materials Science & Engineering).

The Division has never had its own faculty members. Environmental faculty from the participating departments were invited to be listed with the Division, however, no formal cross-appointments existed.

ACADEMIC RATIONALE

The academic programs previously associated with the Division have either closed or are now associated with other offices. The undergraduate program was phased out with the creation of the minors in Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Energy (2008), and the graduate program was closed in favor of supporting the Environmental Studies graduate collaborative program at the School of the Environment (December 2015). Any administrative support for graduate students who have yet to complete their degree requirements will be handled by the CDPO. The promotion of undergraduate interdisciplinary academic activities, including and beyond environmental engineering, is now the responsibility of the CDPO.

The Division's role in promoting cross-disciplinary environmental research is also no longer necessary as these modes of research have become mainstreamed into the culture of the Faculty's departments.

PROCESS AND CONSULTATION

As part of the recent review conducted prior to the closure of the graduate collaborative program in Environmental Engineering, discussions included whether there was a further need for the Division to exist. The departments, the Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies, the Vice-Dean, Research, and the CDPO are all in agreement that there is no longer a need for the Division to exist.

PROPOSAL/MOTION

THAT the Division of Environmental Engineering and Energy Systems be closed effective June 30, 2016.