

To: All Environmental Studies faculty

From: Steve Trombulak, Director of the Program

Re: News and current events

A number of things have happened for us in Environmental Studies that I thought you would be interested in hearing about.

The first is that the Curriculum Committee has approved my proposal for a new Environmental Studies course on Environmental Policy Formation (ES 401). I have attached a copy of the description that will appear in the catalog. This course will be taught by one or more members of the ES Program and will be offered for the first time next Fall Semester, and every fall thereafter. Please note that it is restricted to Juniors and Seniors. The reason for this is that the course is designed specifically for students that want to work in a group on a research project and to use information drawn from a variety of courses. This means that they need to have taken a variety of courses and have the academic maturity to work independently to pull that information together. I don't know yet how this course will fit in to the major. Obviously, it will not be required for any current major to graduate (because they are responsible for the requirements at the time they became an ES major) but I'd like to see if I can devise a way for them to get ES credit for it. I'll be asking you about your ideas on this in the near future.

The second item of interest is the arrival of Jack Schmidt on the faculty in Geology and Geography. His principle areas of interest are geomorphology, water resources, and resource development policy. He has specifically worked on projects relating to the effects of dam operations on sand bars, the relationship between wildfires and soil erosion, and the environmental effects of mining and energy fuels development. For three years prior to coming to Middlebury, Jack was a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Tuscon. He helped both the Carter Administration write the Federal Regulatory Program for coal strip mining and the Office of Technical Assessment in Congress analyze coal leasing policies. Jack is very excited about working with us in ES and I encourage all of you to introduce yourself to him when you can. Jack will work with Brew Baldwin, Lucy Harding, and Ray Coish to administer the geology focus and Bob Churchill and Timi Mayer

with the Geography focus.

The next item is that Governor Madeline Kunin has accepted our invitation to speak on April 11th at 7:30 pm on environmental protection and economic growth in Vermont. Her talk is the first in a planned annual lecture series on Environmental Affairs. I'll be talking with all of you about this as time goes on but I will very much need your help in pulling this event off. As most of you know, one of the purposes of the Lecture in Environmental Affairs is to demonstrate to the College the importance of a broad perspective of and support for the ES Program. We are going to do a great deal of publicity to attract as many people from the College, county, and environmental community as we can. Also, if we can squeeze a few more dollars out of the College, Jack Schmidt thinks he can Michael Clark, President of the Environmental Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. to come up and give us a talk this spring.

Next, the College has approved my request that the ES Program undergo an external review next year. Our budget request for 1988-89 includes money to bring in three people for 1 or 2 days. I have tentative from Carl Reidel at UVM, Nan Jenks-Jay at Williams, and Jim Hornig at Dartmouth to come over and help us out.

Finally, it has been suggested to me that all of us associated with the ES Program should get together sometime this spring to talk about where we want to take the program in the next few years. I agree. I realized that all the many changes that the program has gone through in the last 18 months have been hammered out on the phone. The trouble is that many of us have never or rarely met and that with over 15 faculty associated with the program this method is getting unwieldy. I'd like to schedule a lunch get-together sometime before spring break (certainly before All-College Meeting Night) to talk specifically about the new course and next years external review. You'll hear from me again.

That's it for now. Give me a call if you have any questions.