DATE: 23 September 2005

TO: College of Arts and Science Faculty Council

FROM: David Jon Furbish, Chair
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

SUBJECT: Summary of Environmental Science Option of Graduate Study and Its Administrative Structure

The attached Proposal to Revise the Option of Graduate Study in Environmental Science involves an alliance between the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE). The Environmental Science option, an existing option of study within the Environmental Engineering Program of CEE, had become dormant over recent years. Building on growing synergies between the two departments, this proposal is aimed at revitalizing the Environmental Science option of study, with the goal of achieving excellence in research and graduate education in emerging areas of national priority in environmental science and engineering.

As detailed in the attached proposal, management of the Environmental Science study option will be shared between CEE and EES under the joint leadership of the Director of Graduate Studies for the Environmental Engineering Program in CEE and the Director of Graduate Studies in EES. Each student’s Academic Advisory Committee, chaired by the student’s Research Advisor, will include members of the Graduate Faculty from both CEE and EES, appointed by the two Directors of Graduate Studies of these departments in consultation with the Chairs and the student. The Directors of Graduate Studies may serve as ex-officio members of Academic Advisory Committees on which they are not primary members. Oversight of the Environmental Science study option will be provided by a Program Advisory Committee composed of the two Directors of Graduate Studies and two members-at-large, one each from CEE and EES. The Chairs of CEE and EES will serve as ex-officio members of the Program Advisory Committee; the Director of Graduate Studies in CEE will convene and chair this Committee.