

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY**

**DESIGNATION CODE: 2006-07 CAPR 4**

**DATE SUBMITTED: December 7, 2006**

**TO:** The Academic Senate

**FROM:** Committee on Academic Planning & Review (CAPR)

**SUBJECT:** Request for Department Name Change and Merger of the Geological Sciences and the Environmental Science Programs

**PURPOSE:** Approval by the Academic Senate

**ACTION**

**REQUESTED:** Approval of the proposed merger of the Department of Geological Sciences and the Environmental Science Program into one department, and to rename it as the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences; effective upon the signature of the President

**BACKGROUND**

**INFORMATION:** At its meeting on December 7, 2006, CAPR reviewed the attached documents submitted by the Department of Geological Sciences and the Environmental Sciences Program requesting a merger of the programs into one department and subsequent name change. CAPR met with Jeffrey Seitz, Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences and Susan Opp, Coordinator of the Environmental Science Program. Drs. Seitz and Opp discussed the proposed change and renaming and responded to questions by CAPR.

The proposed merger will provide a department home and resources for the interdisciplinary Environmental Science Program, and recognizes a national trend toward environmental geology by university geology programs. The proposed name change reflects the overlapping nature of the two disciplines, and recognizes a systems approach to studying the Earth. There are no planned curricular changes due to this action and it was noted that combining recruitment and administrative resources will be more cost effective.

Appropriate individuals in the following units were consulted and have approved the merger and name change: the Departments of Geography and Environmental Studies, Biological Sciences, and Chemistry and Biochemistry, the College of Science, the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences, and the Provost's Office. CAPR unanimously approves the request for merger and name change.