

**Resolution of the UB College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) to Establish a
Department of Environment and Sustainability (EVS)**

To: The UB Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: The UB College of Arts & Sciences

Date Proposed to FSEC: November 7, 2018

First Reading to the Faculty Senate: December 11, 2018

Second Reading to the Faculty Senate: February 19, 2019

Approved by the Faculty Senate: February 19, 2019

Effective Date: February 10, 2019

Whereas, the creation of a Department of Environment and Sustainability within the College of Arts and Sciences at the University at Buffalo, SUNY has been proposed;

Whereas, this trans-disciplinary department will be the administrative home of the current B.A. and B.S. degrees in Environmental Studies, the B.S. degree in Environmental Geosciences, and the M.S. and Ph.D. in Evolution, Ecology and Behavior;

Whereas, it will also be the administrative home of the cross-decanal graduate certificate in Sustainability (approved by SUNY and SED) and the home of the future M.A. in Sustainability Leadership (letter of intent approved by SUNY; in proposal stage);

Whereas, the department will create a home for new trans-disciplinary sustainability-based initiatives such as a minor, and eventually major, in Environment and Sustainability;

Whereas, in order to successfully address the fundamental environmental and sustainability issues facing humankind, students need a knowledge base that spans the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities. They need to understand the ecological and evolutionary processes that control populations, species, and communities, the range of anthropogenic effects on the physical, chemical and biotic environments, the array of social and institutional structures that influence human behaviors in relation to the environment, and the varying cultural values that impact interactions with the natural world;

Therefore, be it resolved, that integrating degree programs that span the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, EVS will produce graduates who

are broadly informed citizens, researchers, managers, and stewards of the Earth's environments and resources;

And therefore, be it resolved, that the Department of Environment and Sustainability (EVS) be created to provide trans- and interdisciplinary education to UB undergraduate and graduate students and foster trans-disciplinary scholarly activities within the department, with other units at UB, and with the greater Buffalo community.

Sent for Consideration on: March 29, 2019

Decision: