



September 9, 2015

TO: College Council Members

FROM: Leonidas Bachas  
Dean


SUBJECT: AGENDA for College Council Meeting  
Monday, September 14, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.  
Physics Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Physics Building

**Lunch at 12:15 p.m.**

1. Approval of the Minutes of the August 31, 2015 Meeting
2. Faculty Senate
3. New Structure of the College Council; College Bylaws
4. Dean's Remarks
5. Proposals from the Department of Geography and Regional Studies
  - a. Bachelor of Science in Geography
  - b. Minor in Geospatial Technology
6. Other Business

LGB/rkg



Date: September 2, 2015  
To: College Council  
From: Leonidas G. Bachas   
Dean  
Subject: College Council Meeting Minutes of Monday, August 31, 2015  
Physics Conference Room

**12:15 Lunch**  
**12:30 Call to Order**

**1. Approval of the Minutes of the April 5, 2015 meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2015 meeting was offered, seconded and unanimously approved.

**2. Dean's Remarks**

Dean Bachas spoke about the University's new President, Julio Frenk and the College in this new era. Everyone is invited to attend the President's Town Hall Meeting September 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. President Frenk plans to meet with the College faculty within his first 100 days as president. President Frenk will form a cabinet composed of Vice Presidents to meet with him on a regular basis. The Dean noted that from his meeting with the President, the focus at the university will be on excellence, relevance (impact), values, and establishing UM as the hemispheric university.

Dean Bachas spoke of the Chairs' Retreat that was held August 21, 2015 and the retreat's focus on taking advantage of a new presidency in hopes of making great strides in Arts and Sciences. Professor Stephen Cantrell remarked that the retreat was useful to talk about doing things that makes Arts and Sciences distinct, and said the President's focus area of a hemispheric university is a large idea concept that can be expanded. Dean Bachas went on to say a lot of ideas were discussed; including an organization of minors in major issues as a way to bring disciplines together, as well as the possibility of every student taking on an internship opportunity.

Professor Ambler Moss asked about Dr. Felicia Knaul's role within the University; Dean Bachas stated that Dr. Knaul is a tenured appointed faculty with the medical school. In the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Knaul is the Director of the Miami Institute for the Americas. Dean Bachas mentioned that Dr. Knaul was suggested as a potential candidate for the directorship to the CLAS Search Committee. Dr. Knaul does not have a faculty appointment in Arts and Sciences, but as the new Director of the Miami Institute for the Americas, she will report to Dean Bachas.

Dean Bachas mentioned that the Center for Latin American Studies' name change to Miami Institute for the Americas was voted on a year ago, but the name was not formally changed because the then-director left right after. The name is now changed on the College website and stationery.

**3. Proposal for a Joint JD/MA in Law and Latin American Studies**

Dr. Belkys Torres presented the proposal for a Joint JD/MA in Law and Latin American Studies. Dr. Torres stated it is a standard degree sharing elective credits. Law students complete the College of Arts and Sciences core courses and elective course for the degree, and the Arts and Sciences students will complete the core courses and elective courses from the Law School. The aim is to attract law students interested in developing expertise in Latin America and the Caribbean. The program can be completed in three years so that students remain competitive and relevant. The program includes summer courses in the Law School; years 2 and 3 splits coursework between the School of Law and Arts and Sciences.

Law students may complete summer internships and take summer courses, or complete the program in a fourth year. Students will pay for approximately 20 extra credits for the program. Arts and Sciences will benefit from revenue that comes to the Latin American Studies program.

Professor Ann Brittain wanted to know if someone who is fluent in other languages, such as Dutch, could participate; Dr. Torres said it is up to the discretion of the Latin American Studies Program Steering Committee. A motion to add the proposal for a Joint JD/MA in Law and Latin American Studies to the Faculty meeting agenda was offered, seconded, and approved.

**4. Proposal for a Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis**

Professor Melissa Hale presented the rationale for a Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis in the Psychology department. This will be a certificate for students who have graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology to prepare them for the board exams to become an Applied Behavioral Analyst. Students participating in the program will be fulfilling program requirements as well as being prepared to sit for the board exams.

The abstract specifies that the certificate program would initially only be offered to students who have earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UM, and later on the program would accept students with degrees from other institutions. The Council suggested that this wording should be stricken so that students outside of UM can be accepted and enrolled into the program. A motion to add the proposal for a Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis to the Faculty meeting agenda was offered, seconded, and approved.

**5. Proposal to Create New Educator Faculty Lines**

Dean Bachas noted the importance to create new education faculty lines in the College. He stated that titles have not always been used as they should have. Members of the Council noted that the proposal has not changed much compared to the previous proposal since the last Council and Faculty meetings. They referenced the objection from the faculty for the longer term appointments. Dean Bachas explained that this

proposal, if passed by the Senate, will allow experts in the fields to be hired and bring their expertise to the classroom.

The Council also questioned the number of specified lines, which is noted as sixteen (16), and what happens if there is need later to add someone in. It was noted that the Faculty Senate requires that each line be voted on and passed by each department. Some Council members voiced that this appears to be a way to hire non tenure-track faculty to do things instead of tenured and tenure-track faculty, and is a way to shunt responsibility to others.

Dean Bachas reconfirmed the Council's agreement that they have no objections to the requests from Creative Writing, Theatre, and Art for new Educator Faculty Lines. He said that the proposal can possibly be broken down and approved on a department-by-department scenario at the Faculty meeting. The College Council approves to bring this item forward to the faculty at their meeting on September 22, 2015.

#### **6. Other Items**

Dr. Victor Milenkovic handed out a revised version of the proposal for Faculty online voting. He noted that this is a simpler proposal. He said that a period of one week would allow faculty enough time to review and vote on issues. A discussion ensued about the length of time to be shorter than a week. After discussion, the Council agreed that the one-week period seems reasonable. The Council approved to add this item to the Faculty meeting agenda of September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Online Initiatives: BGS and MPA Programs: Dean Bachas explained that both programs will be offered in online and traditional formats. There are currently 30 online courses for the BGS program, and one course in the MPA program as an experiment to explore its effectiveness. Dean Bachas opened the floor for discussion and objections. After a brief discussion, there were no objections.

#### **7. Approval of the Proposed Agenda for Faculty Meeting of September 22, 2015**

A motion to approve the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Meeting for September 22, 2015 was offered, seconded and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

## **Glemaud, Rose-Ketlie**

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**From:** Sheskin, Ira M.  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 12:32 PM  
**To:** Glemaud, Rose-Ketlie; Mallery, Charles H.  
**Cc:** Stoler, Justin B  
**Subject:** College Council

Geography would like to withdraw the name change part of our package of changes. (Please hold on to it, We added two new faculty and would like to run it by them at our next meeting. We then may submit that name change later.)

Please do have the Council consider the new minor and major.

Ira

### **Dr. Ira M. Sheskin**

#### **Professor and Chair**

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**Glemaud, Rose-Ketlie**

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**From:** Mallery, Charles H.  
**Sent:** Friday, September 04, 2015 7:40 AM  
**To:** Glemaud, Rose-Ketlie  
**Subject:** Items for the Curriculum Committee for Consideration by the College Council  
**Attachments:** 6.GEG Proposals for Curriculum Committee.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Rose,

The Curriculum Committee reviewed proposals for a BS major in GEG, a Minor in Geospatial Technology, and a Name

Change for the Department of Geography and Regional Studies and approved the same for consideration by the College Council.

Attached are the proposals from Geography which are respectfully submitted for consideration by the Council.

Thanks Charly.

charles mallery, associate dean, college of arts & sciences  
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April 6, 2015

To: University of Miami Faculty Senate

From: Ira M. Sheskin, Chair, Department of Geography and Regional Studies

Subject: Changes in Curriculum and Name Change

I am writing this letter of support for a series of proposals from the Department of Geography and Regional Studies designed to modernize our Department and change its curriculum and name to serve our students better and to make our offerings consistent with what most major universities and peer institutions in the country offer.

These include the introduction of a Bachelor of Science degree, a minor in Geospatial Technology, and a name change to Geography and Global Studies.

These changes will not only serve our students better, but will also recognize the increasing role of Geography as a STEM discipline. At the same time, the name change modernizes "Regional Studies" to "Global Studies," the current term being used to emphasize the interconnectedness of our world.

I fully support these changes.

## Memorandum

To: College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

From: Department of Geography (Ira Sheskin, Chair)

Date: March 25, 2015

RE: Curricular changes in the Department of Geography

Attached for the consideration of the College Curriculum Committee is supportive material for a proposed:

1. BS in Geography
2. Minor in Geospatial Technology
3. Name change for the Department of Geography and Regional Studies

Early next year, Geography will be submitting numerous forms to the College Curriculum Committee to update course numbers, names, and descriptions of many of our courses. This will allow us to realign course sequences with our strengths and proposed offerings. We will also be introducing several new courses.

Also, as an FYI (because none of this need go through the College Curriculum Committee), we will be updating the requirements for the existing:

4. BA in Geography
5. Minor in Geography



## **Proposal 1: The Bachelor of Science in Geography**

Consistent with offerings at many American universities, the Geography Department would like to repackage and rebrand its current curricula and offer a BS in Geography.

### **Rationale**

Geography is a social and natural science which has become an increasingly technical field, led by rapid technological developments in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS). Many geographers work in the area of human-environment interactions (conservation, ecology), and other physical geography sub-disciplines such as climatology and biogeography. GIS/RS technology has emerged not only as a driver of these fields, but also of traditional human geography sub-disciplines such as health, economic, and political geography. Dr. Mona Domosh, the current President of the Association of American Geographers, recently highlighted that more than 50% of departments offering Geography bachelor's and master's degrees offer a BS/MS with an emphasis in Physical Geography and/or GIS (our proposed BS emphasizes GIS; see Appendix A, *Geography and STEM*). Note that NSF continues to include Geography in its list of disciplines eligible for STEM funding.

The Department of Geography and Regional Studies currently offers a 30-credit BA degree and a 15-credit undergraduate certificate in Geospatial Technology (GT). All 15 credits from the Certificate may also be applied to the major. A recent internal review of our curricula revealed that the typical program of study for students completing our major and certificate concurrently is nearly identical to that of students completing a BS degree in Geography at other strong institutions. A review of the top 20 institutions from the 2012 NRC Geography Program Rankings (see **Table 1**) reveals that 11 offer the BS degree (12 offer a MS and 14 offer a BS and/or a MS). We also identified 6 universities that either have comparable departments, or are located in Florida, and 4 offer the BS (5 offer an MS and all 6 offer a BS and/or an MS). Thus this proposal for a BS in Geography serves to catch up with what most mainstream departments have been offering for years.

Graduates with strong GIS/RS technical skills encounter a wide variety of career options, as businesses and governments race to take advantage of technological advances. If students wish to enter the public sector, they may work in areas such as public administration and policy analysis; public safety, criminology and emergency preparedness management; public health; environmental management; or urban, regional, social service and transportation planning. Businesses also recruit GIS graduates, especially those focused on location analysis; global logistics and real estate; resource exploration and other topical areas. The BS degree should attract additional students to our department and will give our graduates an additional competitive advantage in a dynamic, competitive GIS job market.

### **Resource Requirements**

No new resources are necessary. GEG is already supporting all the required courses for a BS in Geography, as these mirror the existing GT certificate program requirements. GEG will also have a new assistant professor starting in Fall 2015 (from a top GIS program) who will contribute additional curricula. The only substantive difference is that students will have to complete the University-wide math and natural science requirements for the BS degree.

### **The BS Degree Requirements (Table 2)**

1. The BS degree requires 33 credits in Geography in addition to the University-wide math and natural science requirements for a BS degree.
2. The following courses are required:
  - GEG 101: Digital Earth
  - GEG 120: Physical Geography
  - GEG 199: Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
  - GEG 391: Intermediate Geographic Information Systems
  - GEG 392: Remote Sensing of the Environment
  - GEG 501: Capstone Course
3. A minimum of two courses are required from the following:
  - GEG 481: Introduction to Quantitative Methods
  - GEG 491: Geographic Information Systems and Environmental Modelling
  - GEG 595: Web Geographic Information Systems
  - GEG 681: Advanced Spatial Statistics
  - Other Advanced technical courses approved by Undergraduate Advisor
4. 9 credits of GEG electives

**Table 2** also shows how the BS degree would differ from the current and the soon-to-be-updated BA, which will appear in the 2015-2016 UM Bulletin.

### **Comparison Programs for the BS in Geography**

Many Top-20 Geography Departments are double or triple the size of UM Geography, and therefore not always fair comparisons in terms of the number of courses and requirements we can support. A number of smaller, more comparable departments support a BS degree in Geography as well, and we link you to a mix of comparison programs below.

[University of South Carolina, BS in Geography](#)

[University of New Mexico, BS in Geography](#)

[University of Arizona, BS in Geography](#)

[George Mason University, BS in Geography](#)

[University of Wisconsin, BS in in Cartography and Geographic Information Systems](#)

[University of Texas, Dallas, BS in Geospatial Information Sciences](#)

## **Proposal 2: Minor in Geospatial Technology**

Consistent with offerings at many American universities, the Geography Department would like to offer a Minor in Geospatial Technology.

### **Rationale**

Currently, the Department of Geography offers both an undergraduate and graduate Certificate in Geospatial Technology (GT). Unlike the graduate GT Certificate, the undergraduate GT Certificate does not generate revenue for the University and was originally created to provide a means to enroll working professionals from the information technology field who had not previously completed a BA, and thus were ineligible for the graduate GT Certificate.

The undergraduate GT Certificate has also been marketed to matriculated undergraduates. It has become popular among GEG majors as it allows students to earn the 15-credit Certificate and apply all of those 15 credits toward their 30-credit GEG major. It has also been popular for students from a variety of other STEM and social science programs ranging from Ecosystems Science and Civil Engineering to International Studies and Public Health.

Generally speaking, at most universities the chief difference between minors and certificates is that a minor is focused on a specific discipline whereas a certificate is usually interdisciplinary. We also believe that a minor may be considered by some to be more "academic" than a certificate, as certificates are often associated with continuing education (as is our graduate Certificate) and post-baccalaureate or non-matriculated study.

Thus, we propose converting our existing undergraduate GT certificate into a Minor in GT. Student majoring in fields that regularly employ geospatial technology, such as criminal justice, environmental science, or public health, and who are not concerned with double-counting the credits for the GEG Major, could now earn a GT Minor instead of the GT Certificate. Given current enrollments, this would double the number of minors in GEG, and serve as an attractive feeder program for the proposed BS in Geography described above, and our BA program.

This plan would not require us to discontinue offering the undergraduate GT Certificate, but for consistency, GEG and other advising offices would steer interested students to the GT Minor and gradually phase out the granting of Certificates to matriculated undergraduates. The undergraduate GT Certificate would stay on the books for the original purpose described above.

Given the various paths of study within the GEG major, we also acknowledge that students may, given current College rules, be able to pursue a major in Geography and minor in GT, with a maximum of 6 credits double-counting between them. [This is analogous to a student majoring in Sociology with a minor in Criminology, even though they are in the same department.] This is plausible for a GEG student who does not want to (or cannot, due to

schedule constraints) complete the math and natural science requirements for the BS degree, but still completes the required coursework for a BA in Geography and Minor in GT.

### **GT Minors at Other Universities (Table 1)**

Of the Top 20 Institutions from the 2012 NRC Geography Program Rankings, 8 offer a Geospatial Minor. We also selected 6 universities we believe are somewhat comparable institutions, and 2 offer the Geospatial Minor.

### **The Minor in Geospatial Technology Requirements (Table 2)**

1. The Minor in Geospatial Technology degree requires 18 credits.
2. The following courses are required:  
Any 100-level Geography course (in addition to GEG 199)  
GEG 199: Introduction to Geographic Information Systems  
GEG 391: Intermediate Geographic Information Systems  
GEG 392: Remote Sensing of the Environment
3. At least one course is required from the following:  
GEG 481: Introduction to Quantitative Methods  
GEG 491: Geographic Information Systems and Environmental Modeling  
GEG 595: Web Geographic Information Systems  
GEG 681: Intermediate Spatial Statistics (undergraduate number TBD)  
Other Advanced technical courses approved by the Undergraduate Advisor
4. 3 credits of electives in Geography at the 200-level or above

Note that we will continue to offer the 15-credit minor in Geography for students interested in non-technical Geography coursework in core departmental themes such as the environment, human health, and geopolitics.