TO: Dr. Lynn Pardie, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Harshavardhan Bapat, Chair, Undergraduate Council

FROM: Pinky S. Wassenberg, Dean  
College of Public Affairs and Administration

DATE: 23 February 2011

RE: ENS Proposal for Bachelor of Arts Degree

As Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Administration, I enthusiastically support the request of the Environmental Studies Department to launch a baccalaureate degree in Environmental Studies. The department has worked for several years to develop a proposal for the degree that is both educationally sound and fiscally responsible. Although it calls for a modest, incremental investment of new resources in difficult economic times it is the sort of carefully crafted innovative proposal we should be willing to invest in with an eye toward better serving the students of the State of Illinois in the future.

The Environmental Studies Department has efficiently and effectively used the university resources it was provided to create an online version of its graduate degree. Growth in the number of online majors in the department’s graduate program combined with effective use of their existing instructional resources has allowed the department to minimize the number of low enrollment sections and get the percent of course seats utilized above 80% this academic year. I have total faith that the leadership of the department will use the new resources requested for the undergraduate program as well as it has used its resources to this point.