TO: College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

FROM: Phillip Ihinger, Chair
Department of Geology

DATE: 10/25/2019

RE: Program Change

We request implementation of the following program change with the next possible Catalog.

Name of Program: Comprehensive Major: Geology, Environmental Science Emphasis, Liberal Arts

Program Code: 160-011

Date of Department/Program Approval: 9/16/2019

From Current Catalog Web Page: https://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/geology/geology-comprehensive-major-environmental-science-ba-bs/

To: See attached.

Why: Based on feedback obtained through the assessment of our Program, we have determined that our Environmental Science Emphasis requires needed updates. The feedback includes information received from the following sources: 1) on-going internal Program assessment, with emphasis from student input; 2) our 7-year Program review completed this past fall, with particular input provided by our External Reviewer; and 3) input received through consultation with our External Geology Program Advisory Board. All three sources of feedback noted that our Environmental Science emphasis required an increase in disciplinary breadth so that students would be better exposed to the interdisciplinary nature of skills required in environmental consulting industry, where graduates in this emphasis will be employed. This motivated the addition of a requirement to select three courses, with a recommendation of one course from each of the disciplines Biology, Geography, and Chemistry, as well as requiring ENV/GEOG 377, US Environmental and Sustainability Policy. The Chair of each respective department has noted that the additional load from our majors can be accommodated without additional strain on their existing course offerings. Meanwhile, an equivalent
number of credits (offered through the Geology Department) have been moved from the 'required' category to the 'elective' category. In addition, we agreed with the assessment feedback to add the requirement of Math 246, Statistics, to better prepare our students in the quantitative skills required for jobs in the environmental consulting industry. However, the Geology faculty maintain that students with a comprehensive science degree need to have calculus in their program, so Math 114 remains as a requirement in the revised Env Sci emphasis (see Note 1 in the catalog copy).

Our changes provide significant flexibility for our students to better allow them to meet the requirements of the major in a timely manner, by including a choice of three or more upper division elective options in each of the afore-mentioned required disciplines, as well as in the discipline of Geology.

We do not anticipate that these changes will require any additional resources to implement and/or sustain the new program. The changes were unanimously approved by the Department on 9/16/2019.