



**State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry**

Academic Governance

**Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, 3 May 2023
2:30-4:30p**

Gateway (with a side of Zoom)

Academic Governance Meeting – Spring 2023

<https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/j/95375005733?pwd=emFRT3VSVD0F6MFQ3R3FpVHNJT3lhZz09>

**Meeting ID: 953 7500 5733
Passcode: 785562**

Refreshments available for in-person attendees

1. Welcome / Call to Order/Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Past Minutes
3. Executive Chair Report – G. Scott [3min]
4. Announcement of Election Results - M.Storrings [3min]
5. Reports
 - a. UFS Senator – R.Appleby [5min]
 - b. Academic Affairs Committee – S.Shannon [5min]
 - c. Faculty and Staff Advancement Committee – M.Smith [2min]
6. Awards Ceremony
 - Chancellor's Awards
 - Distinguished Service Professorships
 - Exemplary Researcher Award
 - Foundation Exceptional Achievement in Teaching
 - Student Chancellor Awards
7. Old Business
8. New Business
 - a. Resolutions from the Provost (attached)
 - #1: Revise the SUNY ESF Mission Statement
 - #2: Convert the Division of Environmental Science to the Department of Environmental Science and Environmental Health
 - #3: Create a Department of Quantitative Science
 - #4: Drop "College" from SUNY ESF's Official Name
9. Adjourn to refreshments and conversation

April 25, 2023

Provost's Resolutions to Academic Governance (AG)

Resolution 1: Revise the SUNY ESF Mission Statement

I move to pass a resolution to change the SUNY ESF mission statement from:

"The mission of ESF is to advance knowledge and skills and to promote the leadership necessary for the stewardship of both the natural and designed environments."

To the following new statement:

"The mission of ESF is to educate future environmental leaders of all backgrounds, advance knowledge and skills necessary to promote scholarship and stewardship of the natural to designed environments, and act both locally and globally to improve our world."

The reasons for this change are as follows:

1. The new mission statement highlights the importance of educating future leaders from diverse backgrounds. This is essential for creating a more equitable and just society, as well as for ensuring that the environmental sustainability movements are inclusive and representative of all communities.
2. The new mission statement emphasizes the need for ongoing learning and skill-building in order to promote scholarship and stewardship of the environment. This is critical for ensuring that the next generation of environmental leaders is well-equipped to tackle the complex challenges facing our planet.
3. The new mission statement recognizes that environmental issues are global in scope, and highlights the need for action both locally and globally. This reflects the reality of SUNY ESF's current and future world of interconnectedness, and the recognition that environmental problems know no boundaries.

Overall, the proposed changes to the mission statement are necessary to ensure that SUNY ESF remains a leader in environmental education and advocacy, and that we continue to produce the next generation of environmental leaders who will work to improve our world.

Resolution 2: Convert the Division of Environmental Science to the Department of Environmental Science and Environmental Health

WHEREAS, the Division of Environmental Science at SUNY ESF has been more successful than any other academic unit in sustaining student enrollments; and

WHEREAS, the term “Division” confuses prospective students and faculty not able to decipher readily in what ways the functions of this unit differ from those of a “Department”; and

WHEREAS, the environmental health focus of the Division has been less visible to outsiders than environmental science thereby potentially suppressing enrollments; and

WHEREAS, the growing concern for environmental health issues and the need for interdisciplinary approaches to address these complex problems position SUNY ESF advantageously with proper marketing and increased visibility; and

WHEREAS, SUNY ESF is uniquely positioned to be among the first institutions to establish a Department of Environmental Science and Environmental Health, which bring together experts from various disciplines to address the complex environmental health problems facing our society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Division of Environmental Science at SUNY ESF be converted to the Department of Environmental Science and Environmental Health, to reflect the broadened scope of study and to better position the institution to grow enrollments because of increasing awareness to address the environmental health challenges facing humanity.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the conversion process should be undertaken with the input and consultation of faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders, to ensure a smooth transition and the continued success of the Department.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Environmental Science and Environmental Health should prioritize interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and teaching, in order to advance environmental health knowledge and to inform policy and practice.

Resolution 3: Create a Department of Quantitative Science

WHEREAS, the fields of statistics, mathematics, and computational science are essential disciplines in modern research and industry, and

WHEREAS, the current academic structure at SUNY ESF does not fully reflect the importance of these fields, and

WHEREAS, various stakeholders at SUNY ESF have carefully considered the matter and believe an appropriate solution is to create a new department of statistics, mathematics, and computational science – for now known as the Department of Quantitative Science, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provost hereby recommends the formation of a new department by moving the Statistics Program from the SRM Department and the Mathematics Program from the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs and combining them with new faculty in the general area of computational science for a new academic unit provisionally to be known as the Department of Quantitative Science.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new department shall be responsible for teaching courses in statistics, mathematics, and computational science, and for developing undergraduate- and graduate-student majors and conducting research in these fields.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new department shall be collaborative with other academic units at SUNY ESF to ensure that graduates of the institution – no matter their area(s) of concentration – will be empowered with computational skills to function comfortably with “Big Data,” a cornerstone of science and engineering research and practices for the next several decades.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be forwarded to the appropriate SUNY System officials for further consideration and implementation.

Resolution 4: Drop “College” from SUNY ESF’s Official Name

Whereas, the term "college" may suggest a limited range of academic offerings and may not accurately reflect the breadth and depth of educational programs and research opportunities available at a small doctoral institution like SUNY ESF.

Whereas, the term “college” is most often associated with junior and technical institutions in the global higher education reference frame where international students originate and where SUNY ESF is strategically gearing up to recruit to stabilize enrollments.

Whereas, the term "university" is more commonly associated with a comprehensive range of academic programs, research initiatives, and interdisciplinary opportunities.

Whereas, the term "university" is recognized internationally and may enhance the reputation and competitiveness of a small doctoral institution like SUNY ESF with ambitions to develop a global following.

Therefore, be it resolved that SUNY ESF consider transitioning from the term “college” to "university" in its official name and communications to more accurately reflect the institution’s academic profile and elevate its global recognition and reputation; in so doing the name will go from “State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF)” to “State University of New York Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF).”