PROPOSAL: Master of Science in Earth Science

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of the Master of Science in Earth Science. This proposal is related to the accompanying proposal to delete the Master of Arts in Earth Science. The MS program will increase the number of credit hours of required Geoscience courses from 18 to 24 without changing the total credit hours for the degree (remains at 35). Domestic students are finding it harder to find employment with a Master of Arts degree and international students have difficulty justifying a MA program to sponsorship/scholarship programs from their home countries. In addition, since students are predominantly taking science courses, the department believes it is more appropriate to have a Master of Science in Earth Science than the Master of Arts.

Recommended Action

Create the Master of Science in Earth Science.