Memo to Steve Trombulak
Subject: Environmental Studies Program

9/22/66

Steve - glad to see that you're moving forward in a re-thinking of Environmental Studies.

Comments begin by noting that I enthusiastically support the restoration of tracks on the very modest basis proposed: Social Sciences/ Humanities. Tracks were specifically eliminated a few years ago, and I regretted that. To have the study so focused on Biology seemed to me to miss a great deal of what lays behind environmental problems.

I would argue for certain adjustments in your proposals. First, I would have all majors write a thesis. This has been the most useful part of the Environmental Economics major which used to be. All need an exercise in applying book learning in a real world situation.

I would require at least one term of Statistics for all majors, for evaluating the Environment is very much a matter of collection and examination of data. What is the message carried in the data?

I would require Ec 365 as long as it is taught, and then hope that if Natural Resource Economics carried on beyond my retirement that its content would include certain elements of 365.

On Page 3, I would drop the four courses under the various foci to two and eliminate the 400 series course. In many cases, there won't have been the prerequisites, and I doubt that simply requiring more courses can be justified.

A hint: I'd re-read the text and change to students who (rather than that) or people who (rather than that) etc.

Cheers -

D.K. Smith