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September 9, 2009

Professor Peter Lange
Provost
Office of the Provost
220 Allen Building
Campus

Dear Peter,

I am writing to inform you of action taken at the September 9, 2009, meeting of the Academic Programs Committee regarding the Nicholas School of the Environment's and the Sanford School of Public Policy's proposal for a University Ph.D. degree in Environmental Policy. The committee voted unanimously to approve the new program as described in the proposal document dated August 17, 2009, with the suggestion that a sentence be added in the description of the natural science knowledge (middle of p. 5) that makes clear that the degree of natural science training is intentionally left flexible to accommodate individual student programs, and will be developed in consultation with the mentor and committee. Some members of APC thought that the current language might be confusing to potential and enrolled students.

The APC was impressed by the careful, thorough development of the proposal. We think that the new program will build on Duke's emerging strengths in the environment, in public policy, and in the disciplinary fields of economics and political science. We, in particular, appreciate the degree to which you have consulted with the departments involved about the impact of the new degree program on their course structure and personnel resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review process.

Sincerely,



Lynn Smith-Lovin
Robert L. Wilson Professor of Sociology
Chair, Academic Programs Committee

cc: Bill Chameides
Bruce Kuniholm
Jake Vigdor
Fritz Mayer
Randy Kramer
Angela O'Rand
Michael Munger
Patrick Bayer
John Simon
Sharon Peters