

**Charge to the Task Force on Environmental Sciences**  
**September 12, 2008**

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish a Task Force on Environmental Sciences at Ohio State. The charge of the task force is to:

- Identify how Ohio State's academic programs in the environmental sciences should be optimally configured.
- Recommend appropriate organizational processes and arrangements to support high-quality educational and research efforts. The Task Force will look at overarching research themes, existing strengths, and opportunities for Ohio State.

To do so, the task force will:

- Create an inventory of existing instructional programs and research efforts that also identifies existing strengths and opportunities for Ohio State in the environmental sciences.
- Invite broad and active participation from faculty and students through working groups.

The activities of the Task Force on Environmental Sciences stem from clear faculty interests and the results of the Doctoral Program Assessment and Plan carried out by the Graduate School (April 2008), as well as recent program reviews. The observations and recommendations compiled in the concurrent reviews of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences (April 2008) and of the Budget System (June 2008) provide further indication of the special opportunities now in front of Ohio State.

The need for this effort emerged from the doctoral program assessment process, which revealed critical issues about the organization and administration of the instructional and research efforts in the environmental sciences across the university. These issues must be addressed for Ohio State to achieve the enormous potential it has to be a world leader in these fields. This is a tremendous opportunity for Ohio State and a defining moment for its faculty, researchers, and students in these areas.

**Task Force on Environmental Sciences**  
**Roster – September 12, 2008**

**Co-Chairs:**

- Patrick Osmer, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School
- Joan Leitzel, Interim Executive Dean and Vice Provost, Arts and Sciences

**Members:**

- Doug Alsdorf, Associate Professor, School of Earth Sciences
- Nicholas Basta, Professor, School of Environment and Natural Resources
- Ralph Boerner, Professor, Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology
- Tim Buckley, Associate Professor, School of Public Health
- Jay Hobgood, Associate Professor, Department of Geography
- Berry Lyons, Professor and Director, Byrd Polar Research Center
- Karen Mancl, Professor, Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering, Chair of the interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences Graduate Program (ESGP)
- Jay Martin, Associate Professor, Department of Food, Agricultural, & Biological Engineering
- Bobby Moser, Vice President for Agricultural Administration, University Outreach, and Executive Dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
- Matt Platz, Distinguished University Professor and Interim Dean, College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and College of Biological Sciences
- Gregory Washington, Interim Dean, College of Engineering
- Linda Weavers, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science
- Carol Whitacre, Senior Vice President, Office of Research

(**Note:** Vice Provost Randy Smith, will act as the Office of Academic Affairs' liaison to the task force because of his work and responsibilities with the Council on Academic Affairs and program reviews, both of which will be important to task force activities.)