Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2012-2013E
Resolution to Approve the Major in Environmental Informatics, in the Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Wildlife

Approved by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies:	February 25, 2013
First Reading by University Council:	March 18, 2013
Approved by University Council:	April 15, 2013
Approved by the President:	April 15, 2013
Effective:	Fall 2013

WHEREAS, the department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation has grown and diversified over the past 10 years in the quantitative areas of biometrics, geomatics, and geospatial technologies to address complex natural resource and environmental management problems; and

WHEREAS, the major in Environmental Informatics with in the Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Wildlife will prepare students to assist scientists and managers with the challenges of collecting, collating, archiving, modeling, analyzing, visualizing, and communicating information in support of natural resource and environmental management; and

WHEREAS, the plan for a New Horizon recognizes that "Computational thinking and informatics/digital fluency are becoming basic skills needed in all disciplines;" and

WHEREAS, Virginia has a growing need for highly qualified personnel who specialize in the application of information management, information technology, computer science, statistics, geographic information systems, remote sensing, and modeling for environmental decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the Major in Environmental Informatics will prepare graduates for careers related to informatics in public and private sector organizations; and

WHEREAS, the major is unique within the Commonwealth of Virginia and one of a very few similar programs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Major in Environmental Informatics supports the commitment of the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, the College of Natural Resources and Environment, and the University to educate students in quantitative analysis and informatics to inform natural resource and environmental management**.**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Major of Environmental Informatics, be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Wildlife effective Fall 2013 and the proposal forwarded to University Council for approval.