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 **Climate Change Interdisciplinary Studies**

**Interim Assessment of New Program**

**Conducted by ECOS,** 4/11/13

ECOS has reviewed the Fall 2012 Interim Report of the Climate Change Interdisciplinary Studies Program concerning the Minor in Climate Change Interdisciplinary Studies (CCIS), prepared by Nicky Phear, Program Coordinator/Instructor.

The CCIS minor is an innovative program, nearly the only one in the nation to coordinate studies of the science, politics, and engineering aspects of global climate change. The minor got off to a good start with 17 new students registered in 2009, the first year of the program. The new student registrants increased to 22 in 2010, and to 33 in 2011. By 2012, the CCIS minor had graduated 27 students.

However, ECOS is concerned that the numbers of newly registered students in the CCIS minor dropped from 33 in Fall 2011 to 19 in Fall 2012.

As part of his contract duties, a newly-hired bio-climatologist faculty member in the College of Forestry and Conservation, who started in Fall 2012, will develop a course to specifically fit the needs of the CCIS minor. This may establish a more concrete base for the minor and allow it to maintain enrollment or to grow.

Ten courses have been newly developed or revised for the CCIS minor, and two are in development. The courses involve co-operation among numerous departments. The new courses should increase the enrollment in the minor, so it is surprising that the enrollment has fallen. CCIS plans to change the basic introductory course CCIS 203 to CCIS 103 in order to reach a larger audience.

ECOS concludes that the CCIS minor should continue, but advises against expanding it to a major or adding new faculty hires or new University resources to the program until after future review should indicate continuous growth of enrollment in the program.