4. Special Consideration

**College of Geosciences**
- Department of Geology and Geophysics
- Minor in Geology
- Minor in Geophysics
- Change in course requirements
MEMORANDUM

TO: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

THROUGH: Dr. Sarah Bednarz
Associate Dean, College of Geosciences

THROUGH: Dr. Andreas Kronenberg
Head, Department of Geology and Geophysics

FROM: Dr. David Sparks
Chair, Geology and Geophysics Curriculum Committee

SUBJECT: Change to requirements for Minors in Geology and Geophysics

March 3, 2011

We request a change for Catalog 135 to the section describing minors in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. The major changes include:

1) Limiting the number of credits from courses outside of Geology and Geophysics to four. The original wording allowed substitutions, since a few appropriate cross-disciplinary courses are offered in other Geoscience departments (for example, GEOG 331 Geomorphology, GEOG 370 Coastal Processes, GEOG 361 Remote Sensing, OCNG 430 Geological Oceanography). The new limit ensures that the bulk of the courses for the minor will be within the core Geology or Geophysics classes.

2) Moving the Earth Science and Geoinformatics minors from under the Geology and Geophysics section to other parts of the catalog in the College of Geosciences. The Earth Science minor is a truly interdisciplinary minor, described as and would be better promoted as a Geosciences degree. The Geoinformatics minor would be better housed in Geography, where there is already a major.
Catalog 133 Geology and Geophysics Minors

**General Requirements for a Minor**

1. Minimum of 15 credits in the discipline with at least 6 credits at the 300–400 level.
2. Minimum of 6 credits must be taken in residence at either Texas A&M in College Station or Texas A&M in Galveston.
3. Students must meet with the department’s advisor for minor programs for approval of courses selected (any substitutions must be approved by the department head).
4. Minimum GPA of 2.0 must be achieved for all courses in the minor.

**Additional Requirements for Specific Program**

**Minor in Geology**

1. Either GEOL 101, 103, 104 or 320.
2. Remaining courses to be taken in Geology (except above and GEOL 308) or may include selected courses in Geography, Geophysics and Oceanography, with advisor approval.

**Minor in Geophysics**

1. 9 credits of Geophysics courses.
2. May include selected courses in Atmospheric Sciences, Geology and Oceanography, with advisor approval.

**Minor in Earth Sciences**

1. Either GEOL 101 or 104.
2. Remaining courses to be taken from at least three of the following five groups.
   a. ATMO 151, 201, 206 or any upper-level courses.
   b. GEOG 203, 213, 324, 330, 331, 361, 370, 390, 398, 400, 405, 434.
   d. GEOS 105, 405, 410.
   e. OCNG 205, 251, 252, 401, 420.

**Minor in Geoinformatics**

1. 16 credit hours required.
2. 9 hours required.
   a. GEOG 390 Principles of Geographic Information Systems
   b. GEOG 475 Advanced GIS
   c. GEOL 352 GPS in the Geosciences
3. Two of the following four courses.
   a. CSCE 111 Introduction to Computer Science Concepts and Programming
   b. CSCE 211 Data Structures and Their Implementations
   c. GEOG 361 Remote Sensing
   d. GEOL 309 Introduction to Geological Field Methods
Proposed new language for Catalog 134

Requirements for a Minor

Minor in Geology
1. Minimum of 15 credit hours in Geology or Geophysics. May not include GEOL 308.
2. Minimum of 6 credits must be taken in residence at either Texas A&M in College Station or Texas A&M in Galveston.
3. Must include one of GEOL 101, 104 or 320.
4. Maximum of 4 credits may be from selected courses in Geography or Oceanography, with approval of advisor (any substitutions must be approved by the department head).
5. Minimum of 6 credits at the 300-400 level.
6. Minimum of 2.0 cumulative GPA for all courses in the minor.

Minor in Geophysics
1. Minimum of 15 credit hours in Geology or Geophysics. May not include GEOL 308.
2. Minimum of 6 credits must be taken in residence at either Texas A&M in College Station or Texas A&M in Galveston.
3. Minimum of 9 credit hours in Geophysics.
4. Maximum of 4 credits may be from selected courses in Geography or Oceanography, with approval of advisor (any substitutions must be approved by the department head).
5. Minimum of 6 credits at the 300-400 level.
6. Minimum of 2.0 cumulative GPA for all courses in the minor.