

National Council of The Society of  
*Sigma Gamma Epsilon*



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

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RE: Site visit to **The University of Massachusetts, Boston**

In response to a petition from students interested in forming a new chapter of *Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE)*, I visited the School for the environment at The University of Massachusetts, Boston on 17 May 2013. Dr. Robyn Hannigan, Professor and Director, School for the Environment and Ms. Hayley Cato gave me a tour of the facilities, and Dr. Hannigan described the different degree programs within the school. The facilities are in good condition, and the department will be moving into new space in the near future. I met many faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students during my visit and briefly discussed their individual research interests and how students and faculty interact. The faculty are active in research and encourage undergraduate students to participate in research along with graduate students.

Over lunch, I had the opportunity to hear from students about their reasons for wanting to develop a chapter. I was most impressed with the desire of graduate students to develop closer working relationships with undergraduates, and that undergraduates see this as an excellent opportunity to expand their education. It was clear from my discussions with students that they have the motivation to establish a robust chapter, and understand the values and goals of *SGE*.

The School for the environment offers several different majors and minors in earth and environmental sciences at the undergraduate level, plus masters and doctorate programs. The department is staffed by twenty full-time faculty and staff, plus several more jointly appointed faculty. The faculty are very dedicated to both their students and their own research efforts. The students petitioning for a new chapter of *SGE* are very enthusiastic and academically oriented. I hope that you will enthusiastically approve their petition.

Cordially,

Mark R. Noll, PhD

*SGE* Vice President, Northeastern Province