The Space Sciences program at Florida Tech is the oldest Space Sciences program in the nation from my understanding. It has been the central major in our department for as long as I’ve been here, as significantly more than half of our majors are enrolled in Space Sciences. In the mid 1990’s we implemented an Option in Astronomy & Astrophysics (7136), and this turned out to be very attractive to students. Our enrollments went up sharply, but we have found an unintended consequence that while the A&A option has done remarkably well, the general program has had its numbers on a long slow decline over the years. We’ve discussed this at great length in the department. We believe two effects are at work. The first is that a student can sign up for Space Sciences (7132), or they can sign up for Space Sciences Option in Astronomy & Astrophysics (7136), and in the second case they get the additional nice title on their diploma for “free”, relative to 7132 – in other words, it’s the psychology of the consumer “with this choice you get this extra thing for free.” The second effect we think is a “branding” problem. “Space Sciences” is a blanket term covering those things that NASA does: Solar, Earth, Planetary Sciences, and Astronomy and Astrophysics. The general Space Sciences program is effectively our Solar, Earth, and Planetary Science track, and we are proposing that we take the current list of required courses for 7132, and put them under a new major code as “Space Sciences: Option in Solar, Earth, and Planetary Sciences” (SEPS). We are told that the major code 7132 must be renumbered (we suggest 7135, if available) and the old code will be retired effective immediately as its last student graduate or transfer to a new major code.

With this change, we will add symmetry to our programs. All under the Space Sciences umbrella, we’ll have (listed alphabetically, which is the order we believe they should be listed in the printed catalog).

- 7137: Spec. Sci. Option in Astrobiology
- 7136: Spec. Sci. Option in Astronomy & Astrophysics

Benefits: The new name will more accurately reflect the nature of the degree program. It also should result in our program showing up for high school students interested in an undergraduate program in Planetary Science when they do their internet searches. We are probably missing these students at the current time.

Costs/Cons: None, beyond the transient effort required to implement the new program and transition students to the new major code (we’ve had discussions with the Registrar’s Office about this, and are assured it would not be too difficult).

Sincerely yours,

Matt A. Wood, Professor
Dept. of Physics and Space Sciences
PSS UGCC Representative
Florida Institute of Technology

ADDING A NEW MAJOR OR MINOR TO THE CURRICULUM

Please provide the following information when requesting a new major or minor (programs and options) to be added to the curriculum. A code will be assigned by the Office of the Registrar and a copy of this form will be mailed to the appropriate department.

COLLEGE: SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT: PHYS

PROGRAM TO BE ADDED
☐ Major
☐ Minor
☐ Program/Option/Concentration/Specialization for __________________________ (degree program)

☐ Associate of Arts (A.A.)
☐ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
☐ Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
☐ Executive Master of Business Administration (E.M.B.A.)
☐ Master of Arts (M.A.)
☐ Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)
☐ Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
☐ Master of Education (M.Ed.)
☐ Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)
☐ Master of Science (M.S.)
☐ Master of Science in Aviation (M.S.A.)
☐ Professional Master of Business Administration (P.M.B.A.)
☐ Educational Specialist (Ed.S.)
☐ Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)
☐ Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
☐ Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)
☐ Graduate Certificate

PROGRAM TITLE Restricted to 30 characters, including spaces

Space Sciences: Option in Solar, Earth, and Planetary Sciences

TERM TO BE INITIATED FALL 2008
ADVISER FOR NEW PROGRAM Hamid K Rassoul

ROUTING APPROVALS: 1) Department head/program chair and college dean approve and sign form; 2) Provost approves business plan of the program in terms of financial viability and impact on the university mission, and signs form; 3) Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or Graduate Council approves academics and signs form; 4) Provost gives final approval of program, signs form and forwards to Office of the Registrar.

1) __________________________ 10/18/07
Department Head/Program Chair

2) __________________________ 11/2/07
Provost

3) __________________________
Chair, Graduate Council

4) __________________________
Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Florida Institute of Technology • Office of the Registrar
150 West University Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32901-6975 • (321) 674-3 ext. • Fax (321) 674-7827
General Information – ext. 8115, Graduation – ext. 8116, Records and Transcripts – ext. 8117, Registration – ext. 8118

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SAC0XCUR __________________________ CIP Code __________________________ Operator Initials/Date __________________________