

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #183, May 7, 2012:

**MOTION:**

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve a Minor in Geophysics.

**EFFECTIVE:**            Fall 2012  
                              Upon Chancellor's approval.

**RATIONALE:**           See the program proposal #12-UNP on file in the Governance Office, 312B Signers' Hall.

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**Overview:**

The Department of Geology and Geophysics currently has a minor focused on the geology side of the department, but no minor available for those interested in Geophysics. We regularly get students interested in Geophysics because of its application to the oil industry, volcanoes, earthquakes, glaciers, climate, and related studies relevant to living and working in Alaska. Because of the prerequisites necessary to accomplish the coursework proposed for this minor, the most likely students to request it are Physics, Math, Chemistry, Engineering or similar majors. In particular the Geophysics minor can provide these students with rigorous, quantitative, intriguing Earth Science applications for the theories and fundamentals they are acquiring as students in

that are central to the Geophysics Option (all other courses), the minor places no additional demands on faculty workloads. Unless this minor attracts more than 5 students per year, we do not foresee a need for additional space. Therefore, while we expect a small increase in enrollments within the Geoscience degree program, the minor provides a service to students at little cost to the department or college.

The Geophysics Minor is intended to provide a path for students in Physics, Math, Chemistry, Engineering or other science who wish to learn in more depth about how the basic sciences can be applied to study the Alaskan landscape. As mentioned above, we regularly get students

interested in Geophysics because of its application to the oil industry, volcanoes, earthquakes, glaciers, climate, auroras, environmental engineering, and related studies relevant to living and working in Alaska. This program will provide a connection between UAF undergraduate students and UAF's world-renowned expertise in Geophysics in research and graduate studies. In

particular, this minor would provide a conduit for undergraduate students to engage in innovative