MEMORANDUM TO RE-CHARTER A SECTION

TO: International Studies Association Governing Council

FROM: Miranda A. Schreurs

DATE: December 22, 2010

RE: Re-charter of the Environmental Studies Section

I, the Under-signed, in compliance with Article IV, Section 1(b) of the International Studies Association Constitution with regard to the re-chartering of International Studies Association Sections, do hereby request the Environmental Studies Section by the International Studies Association Governing Council for the period of January 2011-January 2016.

I have attached hereto the following items in support of this request (mark all that are applicable):

- [X] Annual Report of Section Activities
- [X] Analysis of Section Membership
- [x] Analysis of the Section Financial Base
- [x] Copy of Section Charter
- [x] List of Section Leadership with Terms of Office

DATED this 22 day of December, 2010.

Miranda A. Schreurs, Chair
1. **Section Annual Activities**

   The aim of ESS/ISA is to seek a better understanding of the reciprocal influence of natural and human systems within global, regional, and national contexts, and to promote scholarly interactions among social and natural scientists and policy-makers interested in these issues.

1. Following the prominence of global, regional and national environmental issues and the active scholarly interest they have raised, the section has experienced steady growth since 1983, both in the number of members and in the number and variety of panels offered at annual meetings. The Section is thus blessed with highly dynamic and enthusiastic members. Section members actively work to promote the section and attract new members.

2. The annual ISA conference is the highlight event of the year for the ESS. ESS members are very active at the annual conferences. This is visible from the large number of panels the section organizes at the ISA. In 2009 we sponsored or co-sponsored 50 panels and roundtables. In 2010 it was 53 and in 2011 it looks like it will be 52. For the 2011 conference, 21 panels, 1 roundtable, and 124 papers were submitted to ESS as a first choice. At the annual section business meeting that is held in conjunction with the annual conference, panel ideas for the next year’s program are floated to begin the process of generating coherent and thematically-relevant panels. The program Vice-Chair (Pamela Chasek) evaluates panels for the program and creates panels out of individually submitted papers.

3. Special workshops organized by ESS members are often tied to the ISA annual conference. In 2010, Paul Wapner, Sikina Jinnah, and Simon Nicholson were making plans for a workshop on “Global Environmental Politics on a New Earth: Deepening Community and Research for the Environmental Studies Section” to be held one-day prior to the Montreal ISA Annual Conference in 2011. The workshop will bring together 60 members of the Environmental Studies Section of the ISA for a day of discussions and fellowship.

4. A large number of our members are extremely active in the Section. Many are highly active in international programs, institutions, networks, and conferences dealing with global or regional environmental policy-making.
Throughout the year, ESS members exchange information, plan events, participate in research projects, and help keep the section really present in the community.

5. **GEP-ED.** Many years ago ESS member, Michael Maniates established a discussion list (open to all) on teaching global environmental politics. This list provides a forum for discussing substantive and pedagogical issues related to the teaching of global environmental politics (GEP) at the undergraduate and graduate level. The list was initially organized to provide a place for college and university teachers of GEP to compare notes and explore alternative curricular and pedagogical approaches.

Over the years, the list has taken on another purpose too, that being a place where scholars, government analysts, activists, and graduate students can raise questions and broach issues about the state of the field and the events and scholarly resources that inform it. Much of the list’s discussion revolves around how or what to teach, and about why and how we teach what we do. Narrow requests for help and insight are welcome on this list (e.g. “what recent good books exist out there for my undergraduate course in international relations,” “how do I teach international political economy to a varied classroom audience,” or “what’s the latest word on international property rights and biodiversity, and how are people framing these issues in their courses?”) So too are broader discussions about contemporary and alternative approaches to teaching GEP, and questions or concerns grounded in the struggle to enlighten and inspire students with whom we now, or may someday, work. For technical reasons, the list was shifted to a new provider (gep-ed@googlegroups.com). This is certainly one of the largest list serves of its kind with several hundred professors, graduate students, and experts participating.

6. The section administers the ISA annual **Harold and Margaret Sprout Award** given for the best book or article published in the field of international environmental politics – one that makes a contribution to theory and interdisciplinarity, shows rigor and coherence in research and writing, and offers accessibility and practical relevance. Nominated works must be published during the two years prior to the year they are nominated for. Award recipients in the past five years are:

2010  D.G Webster, University of Southern California
Adaptive Governance: The Dynamics of Atlantic Fisheries Management  
MIT Press

2009  Steve Vanderheiden, University of Colorado  
Atmospheric Justice: A Political Theory of Climate Change  
Oxford University Press  
Runners-up:  
Charlotte Epstein, University of Sydney: The Power of Words in International Relations: Birth of an Anti-Whaling Discourse, MIT Press  

2008  David Humphreys, The Open University  
Logjam: Deforestation and the Crisis of Global Governance  
Earthscan  
Runner-up:  
Andrew Szasz, University of California, Santa Cruz: Shopping our Way to Safety: How we Changed from Protecting the Environment to Protecting Ourselves, University of Minnesota Press

2007  Thomas Princen, University of Michigan  
The logic of Sufficiency  
MIT Press

2006  Ken Conca, University of Maryland  
Governing Water: Contentious Transnational Politics and Global Institution Building  
MIT Press

7. The section issues a Graduate Student Paper Award for the best paper by a student at the annual ISA Convention. In 2010 no award was administered as the Executive committee did not feel the quality of the papers was sufficiently strong to merit an award. In 2011 an award will be made.

8. The ESS Newsletter is sent out once every three months. The ESS Newsletter is highly valued by the section members. It is currently edited by Richard Matthew and Pamela Donohoo, University of California, Irvine. The
ESS Newsletter includes sections on: ESS Section News, New Publications (Books, Articles and Chapters), Dissertation Abstracts, on the Web, Announcements, Career Resources, Student Resources. (http://environmental-studies.org/?cat=4)

9. The ESS maintains a web site (developed by Ron Mitchell and currently administered by Marcus Schaper). The website provides information about the ESS, the ESS charter, ESS Officers, Sprout Award Winners, the ESS Newsletter, Journals of interest to the section, and environmental studies graduate programs.

10. ESS member, Peter Dauvergne founded the journal *Global Environmental Politics* many years ago. It is currently edited by Jennifer Clapp and Richard Matthews. ESS members regularly publish in the journal. The journal also provides the winner of the Best Graduate Student Paper Award the opportunity to be considered for publication in the journal. *Global Environmental Politics*. Publisher: MIT Press

Description: *Global Environmental Politics* invites submissions that focus on international and comparative environmental politics. The journal covers the relationship between global political forces and environmental change. Topics include the role of states, multilateral institutions and agreements, trade, international finance, corporations, inequalities, non-governmental organizations, science and technology, and grassroots movements. Particular attention is given to the implications of local-global interactions for environmental management as well as the implications of environmental change for world politics.

11. At the 2010 annual section business meeting, a committee was established to look into steps that could be taken to green the section. The committee is being chaired by Beth deSombre.

12. At the 2010 ESS business meeting the Executive Committee brought to the attention of the attending ESS members (approximately 50) a problem that had been introduced by an amendment to the Charter made a few years earlier. Staggered terms were introduced for the chair and vice-chair so that they would be elected in alternating years. But, this introduced a problem into the system that was not foreseen at the time of its introduction. The assumption in the section is that the vice-chair will run to become chair when the chair steps down. During the nominations process for new officers the nominations committee and executive committee came to realize that the
section had introduced a problem into its electoral system: if the term of the vice-chair is not in sync with the term of the chair, then it becomes problematic for the vice chair to become chair when the chair’s position becomes open. The ESS executive committee discussed this problem and brought it to the attention of the membership at the ESS business meeting. The Executive Committee with the blessing of the former chair, Ronny Lipschutz who had originally proposed the alteration to the voting procedures, proposed a return to the “old system” of parallel terms for the chair and vice chair. The proposal was put to vote and unanimously approved at the business section meeting.

13. The ESS has pulled in sponsorship from Ashgate Publishing Co. and MIT Press for its reception at the annual conference. Another potential sponsorship is currently under discussion.

2. Section Membership

Section Membership of the ESS has been steadily increasing, doubling in the past five years. The section has worked to expand its membership, working to recruit not only established, but also junior and international scholars.

March 2005 = 159
March 2006 = 171
March 2007 = 184
March 2008 = 213
March 2009 = 304
March 2010 = 324

3. Section Financial Basis

As of August 31, 2010 the ESS had a positive balance of $1,319.48. This figure does not include the $2,000 in sponsorship that is being provided by Ashgate Publishing and MIT Press for the 2011 ESS reception.

The $1,319.48 is sufficient to cover the costs of the awards hosted by the ESS (Sprout ($500) and Best Graduate Student Paper ($100)). The section’s reception costs are planned in such a way as to stay within the range of the $2000 provided by Ashgate and MIT. If the differential between income and expenditures is
sufficiently in the black as of the annual convention, a discussion of whether and how to use remaining funds will be had at the ESS business meeting.

4. Section Charter (also sent as separate file)

Charter

Charter of the Environmental Studies Section of the International Studies Association
(As approved March 24, 2006 and unanimously amended at the ESS Business Meeting 2010, February 19, 2010)

Article I: Name.

This section shall be known as the Environmental Studies Section of the International Studies Association (ESS/ISA).

Article II: Purposes.

The aim of ESS/ISA is to seek a better understanding of the international linkages between natural and human systems within global, regional, and national contexts. ESS will attempt to promote an increased awareness among social and natural scientists and policy makers of the implications of environmental/ecological perspectives and global environmental trends. To accomplish these purposes, ESS shall:

1) link scholars of various disciplines to keep them abreast of current developments in the field;

2) develop and encourage research, including interdisciplinary and collaborative research, on international environmental studies and on adaptive strategies for the international system and its subsystems;

3) seek to disseminate information on environmental developments and research by sponsoring or participating in workshops, symposia, and professional and other appropriate meetings, and

4) seek ways to further the teaching of international environmental studies.

Article III: Relationships.
ESS will encourage cooperative relations with other organizations within or outside ISA which share its interests.

Article IV: Membership.
1. Any ISA member sharing the purposes of this section may become a member upon payment of whatever dues shall be established. Any non-member of ISA must, within a reasonable period of time, join ISA, in order to be a member of this section.
2. Members are entitled to attend annual meetings, nominate, vote, sponsor amendments to this charter, and receive copies of publications.

Article V: Executive Committee
1. The officers of ESS shall be called the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the chairperson and vice-chairperson, plus six other members, each elected for a two-year term. One half of the general members are to be elected at the annual meeting each year.
3. The Executive Committee shall meet at the ISA annual meeting, and at such other reasonable times and places as the chairperson, or at least three (3) of the officers shall designate.
4. The Executive Committee shall appoint from within itself the office of secretary, and appoint committees, the section newsletter editor and webmaster, enact budgets and dues, set rules and tentative agenda for the annual meeting of members, and conduct the business of the section at times between the annual meetings of members.

Article VI: Chairperson and Vice-chairperson
1. The chairperson shall be the official spokesperson of ESS/ISA unless the Executive Committee determines otherwise. The chairperson shall act as treasurer for the ESS. The chairperson shall call meetings (except as provided for in Article V, Section 3) and shall preside at them. The Chairperson shall be elected at the annual meeting for one two-year term, and may be re-elected once.
2. The Vice-chairperson shall be primarily responsible for organizing the ESS-sponsored panels at the annual ISA conference, under the general guidance of the Chairperson. The Vice-chairperson may be re-elected once.
Article VII: Annual Meeting of Members.

The annual meeting of members shall be held at the Annual ISA Meeting and shall conduct the business of the section, as well as carrying any other activity consistent with the purposes of the section. The Chairperson shall preside and the members of the Executive Committee participate. The annual meeting shall:

1) receive a report of the activities of the section;
2) select a nominating committee of four (4) three (3) members; and
3) vote to elect officers based on the report of the nominating committee plus nominations from the membership as provided for in Article VIII.

Article VIII: Nominations and elections.

1. A nominating committee of four (4) members, including at least one (1) member from outside the Executive Committee, shall be elected at the annual meeting. The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee.
2. The Nominating Committee shall seek to ensure a slate representative of the diversity within the section, including various disciplines, intellectual and methodological stances, ages and sexes, institutions, and geographic locations.
3. The Harold and Margaret Sprout Award Committee shall consist of five (5) members, three of whom will be elected in a given year and two of whom will be elected in the alternate year. The Committee shall select its own chair.
4. The section shall elect a section representative to the Editorial Board of Global Environmental Politics to a 3-year term.
5. The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations from the section membership by e-mail and present to the membership by e-mail for a vote the names of one or more nominees for each vacant position at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting. Those who have not voted by e-mail may vote in person at the annual meeting.
6. Additional nominations sponsored by at least five (5) members may be made at the annual meeting and shall be eligible for election.
7. Officers for the next year shall be elected at the annual meeting, based on the vote by e-mail and at the annual meeting, and shall take office at the close of the meeting.
Article IX: Finances.
1. The section may solicit and receive outside funding, but may use the name of ISA only with the agreement of its officers.
2. The section may establish dues, subject to ISA limitations, and shall consider the financial limitations of members in establishing these.

Article X: Amendments.
1. Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee, or by petition of at least ten (10) members.
2. Amendments shall be considered at the annual meeting, and shall be adopted if approved by 2/3 of the members present and voting.
3. Amendments shall be submitted to ISA officers.

5. Officers of the Environmental Studies Section

   (term expiration in parentheses)

Chair: Miranda Schreurs (March 2008-March 2011)
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Miranda.Schreurs@fu-berlin.de

Vice Chair: Pamela Chasek (March 2010-March 2011* Note that this is a one-year term as the Section unanimously voted to bring the terms of the Chair and Vice Chair back into sink, overturning an earlier amendment to stagger the terms.)
International Studies, Manhattan College
Phone: 718-862 7248; 718-862 7248; fax: 718-862-8044;
pamela.chasek@manhattan.edu

Executive Committee (6 member, rolling 2-year terms):
Sherrie Baver (March 2011)
City University of New York
Radoslav Dimitrov (March 2011)
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Rodger Payne (March 2011)
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Norichika Kanie (March 2012)
Graduate School of Decision Science and Technology, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan

Lorraine Elliott (March 2012)
Australian National University

Barbara Connolly (March 2012)
University of Notre Dame

**Nomination Committee** (4 members, rolling 2-year terms):
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hans.bruyninckx@soc.kuleuven.be

David Downie (March 2011)
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Heike Schröder (March 2012)
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Jeannie Sowers (March 2012)
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University

**Sprout Award Committee** (5 members, rolling 2-year terms):
Steinar Andresen (March 2011)
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Representative to the Global Environmental Politics editorial board (3-year term):
Gabriela Kutting (March 2012)
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