

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs

Establishment of Master of Sustainable Transportation DegreeRECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering to offer the Master of Sustainable Transportation degree program, effective Autumn Quarter 2011. This is a self-sustaining professional program offered in coordination with UW Educational Outreach (UWEO). The degree program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled in the 2016-2017 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2010, the Graduate School received a Planning Notification of Intent (PNOI) from the graduate faculty in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering requesting authority to develop the self-sustaining Master of Sustainable Transportation degree program. The PNOI was circulated to stakeholders across campus, then submitted to the Higher Education Coordinating Board which granted permission to develop in June 2010. The full degree proposal was submitted in October 2010. Implementation is planned for Autumn Quarter 2011, with the program anticipating 18 degrees granted per year at maturity.

The practice-oriented Master of Sustainable Transportation addresses the major issues surrounding sustainable transportation. This 42 credit program will develop students' awareness of the sustainable engineering strategies and will provide the students with a solid background that can be applied in practice. This emphasis fits in with the University of Washington's sustainability mission, which is part of the university's strategic plan. The Master of Sustainable Transportation will be a self-sustaining program, available via distance delivery through software that allows for real time class sessions emphasizing class participation. Online instruction allows for students from geographic locations both within and outside the Puget Sound region.

In October 2010, the Graduate School appointed two reviewers to evaluate the Master of Sustainable Transportation proposal. The reviewers both supported approval of the degree program. Each reviewer made specific recommendations on the program, to which the program provided detailed responses.

The Graduate School Council met on December 9, 2010, to discuss the Master of Sustainable Transportation degree proposal. The Council

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recommended unanimously that the proposal be forwarded to the Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with this recommendation.

On March 8, 2011, the Higher Education Coordinating Board Education Committee discussed the full Master of Sustainable Transportation proposal, which was then considered by the full Higher Education Coordinating Board on March 31, 2011. The Board approved the proposal by the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the University of Washington to offer the Master of Sustainable Transportation.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the College of Engineering, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents' action on the Master of Sustainable Transportation.