

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of a Graduate Certificate Program in Climate ScienceRECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the Program on Climate Change to offer the Graduate Certificate in Climate Science, effective immediately. The graduate certificate program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled in the 2011-2012 academic year. At such time that the Board of Regents grants continuing status, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND

On September 19, 2007, the Graduate School received a proposal from graduate faculty in the Program on Climate Change (PCC) requesting authority to offer a Graduate Certificate in Climate Science. The PCC is an interdisciplinary program established in 2001 under the University Initiative Fund (UIF). Its mission is to facilitate and coordinate UW interdisciplinary climate science research, graduate education and outreach. The Department of Atmospheric Sciences, the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, and the School of Oceanography are core units involved with the PCC. It draws also on other related units. The PCC has a budget of \$500K/year for student and faculty recruitment, meetings and visitors, and administration. It is currently overseen by the Board of Environmental Deans.

The science of the climate system combines fluid dynamics, chemistry, radiation physics, geology, biology, and mathematical modeling and analysis skills. The Graduate Certificate in Climate Science will provide interdisciplinary training in methods, research issues, and communication of climate science that enhances the scientific breadth and professional employability of graduate students. The PCC courses are specifically designed to address the cross-linkages in the earth system that disciplinary curricula are not able to do. The graduate certificate program will combine the interdisciplinary reach of the PCC courses with a unique individually-designed capstone project on communicating climate science. It will help recruit students to the UW whose interest is in climate science and provide a formal mechanism to recognize students' course work. Learning outcomes for certificate recipients will include designing and implementing a project in communication of climate science; becoming knowledgeable in the broad area of climate science and the ability to communicate that knowledge to a wide variety of audiences; and providing practice in effective communication and organizational skills.

No additional funding will be required to offer the Graduate Certificate in Climate Science. It will rely on courses that the Program on Climate Change already offers

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or intends to offer. PCC underwent a successful review last year and has been transitioned from a UIF to a permanent program, subject to reviews every five years, the next of which will be in 2011.

On October 4, 2007, the Graduate School Council considered the proposal and recommended that it be approved. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with the Council's recommendation.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Chair of the Board of Environmental Deans, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation. Approval by the Higher Education Coordinating Board is not required for the Graduate Certificate proposal. The Graduate School will inform the HECB that the program has been established if it is approved by the Board of Regents.