

M e m o r a n d u m

To: University Senate
From: Rebecca Andridge, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs
Subject: Proposal to Establish a Master of Geographic Information Science and Technology Degree Program
Date: October 19, 2022

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Whereas the Department of Geography is a national leader in Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIST) research and education; and

Whereas the field of GIST has witnessed increasing demands from professionals in public and private sectors over the past decade, and the proposed professional program aims to train well-rounded GIST professionals with a comprehensive curriculum covering professionalism, cutting-edge technology and applications; and;

Whereas the primary audiences for the program are current students wanting to pursue this field, current GIST professionals who want to advance their career, and military personnel, and it will be offered on campus and fully online; and

Whereas it is a course-based program with well-defined learning outcomes that will require 33 credit hours of coursework, including four required courses, three intermediate electives, three advanced electives, and a three-credit hour capstone – and there is an assessment plan; and

Whereas peer institutions nationally offer related programs, and there is no direct overlap with programs at other institutions within the state, or with the Department’s existing Master of Arts program; and

Whereas the proposal has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Distance Education and e-Learning for the online offering, and has the support of the Department, the College Dean and College Curriculum Committee; and

Whereas following approval through the Graduate School, the proposal was reviewed and approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on September 7, 2022; and

Therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal from the Department of Geography to establish a Master of Geographic Information Science and Technology degree program and respectfully requests approval by the Board of Trustees.