

## Memorandum

To: University Senate  
From: Eric C. Bielefeld, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs  
Subject: Proposal to Establish the Sustainability Institute  
Date: November 26, 2018

### A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTBALISH THE SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

Whereas sustainability is an inherently interdisciplinary topic that transcends any single academic unit, discipline or sector; and

Whereas this proposal to merge the Sustainable and Resilient Economy (SRE) Discovery Theme Program with the Office of Energy and Environment (OEE) provides an opportunity for integration of sustainability and resilience scholarship, across the University's mission, and to build capacity for future activities; and

Whereas the proposal adheres to the Guidelines for the Establishment and Review of Academic Centers, clearly articulating mission, membership and administration, budget and funding, and evaluation criteria; and

Whereas the proposal has widespread support from within and outside the University, and the support of the Office of Academic Affairs to which it will report; and

Whereas the proposal was reviewed and supported by a Council Subcommittee, and then approved by the full Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on November 7, 2018; and

Whereas additional information was provided to respond to questions raised by the Faculty Council following its meeting on November 8, 2018; and

Whereas if approved, the Institute will provide a progress update to the Council two years after establishment, and will undergo a full review at the fourth year, and every four years thereafter.

Therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish the Sustainability Institute.