

M E M O R A N D U M

To: University Senate

From: Sue Sutherland, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs

Subject: Proposal to Establish a Master of Energy Sustainability Degree Program

Date: January 23, 2026

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY DEGREE PROGRAM, SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

Whereas the Master of Energy Sustainability graduate professional degree is an interdisciplinary cross college program involving three large colleges – Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – facilitated through the Sustainability Institute with administrative authority in the Office of Academic Affairs; and

Whereas the proposal emerges as one of several actions and outcomes from the coordinated and collaborative efforts through the Sustainability Institute to enhance and expand sustainability education, research, and community outreach and was developed by a Graduate and Professional Education Subcommittee; and

Whereas the proposal adhered to all expectations for a new degree proposal including a strong rationale including alignment with workforce development, goals, plans for its organizational structure, membership structure, funding and assessment, and it included a detailed implementation plan; and

Whereas the program is 34 credit hours with foundational courses (19 hours), general courses (12 hours), and an experiential learning capstone (3 hours).

Whereas the proposal is supported by the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and the Office of Academic Affairs; and

Whereas the proposal was reviewed by the Combined Graduate School/Council on Academic Affairs subcommittee, and was then approved by the full Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on January 14, 2026; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish the Master of Energy Sustainability and respectfully submit the proposal to the Board of Trustees.