To: Paul M. DeLuca, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

From: Paul Robbins, Director, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
Craig H. Benson, Director of Sustainability Research and Education, Office of Sustainability

Date: 6 March 2014

Re: Proposal for Undergraduate Sustainability Certificate

Cc: File

Enclosed please find a proposal for an undergraduate Sustainability Certificate, which was prepared by the Office of Sustainability in collaboration with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. If approved, the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies will administer the Sustainability Certificate, with logistical and financial support from the Office of Sustainability.

The proposal includes a letter indicating that the Nelson Institute will be the administrative home for the certificate. Each department and program affected by the Sustainability Certificate has provided an approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

With best wishes,

Paul Robbins
Professor and Director
Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
Proposal for an Undergraduate Sustainability Certificate

**Sponsoring Unit:** Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies developed by Office of Sustainability

Developed by

Patrick Eagan, Ph.D., P.E.

Professor, Department of Engineering Professional Development

Education Fellow, Office of Sustainability,

Chair of Environment and Resources Program, Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

Craig H. Benson Ph.D., P.E.

Director of Sustainability Research and Education and Wisconsin Distinguished Professor, Office of Sustainability

Angela Pakes Ahlman MS, P.E.

External Relations Coordinator, Office of Sustainability

Geological Engineering

Becky Ryan

Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
Table of Contents

Transmittal Letter from Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

Proposal Narrative

1.0 Introduction, certificate name and purpose
2.0 Academic Home/Sponsoring Unit
3.0 Implementation Timeline
4.0 Governance and Administration
5.0 Curriculum/Program description
6.0 Overlap limits
7.0 Assessments and Program Review
8.0 Admissions
9.0 Advising
10.0 Enrollment progress and Certification Completion
11.0 Resources and Ongoing Commitment
12.0 Sunset Provisions

Appendices

A-1 Interested key faculty and staff
A-2 Sample course Plans
B-1 Supporting letters from Departments offering Mandatory Courses and other Relevant Units

Certificate Form
Certificate Title: Sustainability Certificate

1.0 Introduction and Purpose

Sustainability is an emerging subject that is connected to all disciplines. Currently, there are few educational programs that support development of sustainability competencies at the undergraduate level. We propose to frame the concept of sustainability in broad terms of equitable stewardship of resources so that the society of today does not compromise the society of future generations. We propose to accomplish this task through a selection of sustainability background courses, a community engagement experience and a capstone course. This certificate is designed to complement the depth of existing degrees.

Value to students

At the 2012 National Academy of Engineering meeting, the keynote speaker specifically indicated that sustainability-oriented curriculum and credentialing be developed in the US to provide the demand that currently exists and will develop over the next decade. Discussion that followed indicated that our peer institutions are developing curricula. Students have also demonstrated a strong interest. For example, 17 student organizations have organized themselves into the UW-Madison Sustainability Council, which is led by the Office of Sustainability student director. In addition an informal survey of employers and industry has indicated a strong interest in students with sustainability skills. Other units have conducted competency market analyses with stakeholders who hire professionals.

Creation of this certificate is consistent with the OS mission:

The University of Wisconsin–Madison aligns research and education on sustainability (our purpose) with campus operations (our practices) in the service of environmental, economic, and social responsibility to people and the planet. The University of Wisconsin–Madison will be a living model for sustainability, exemplifying values and actions that demonstrate our commitment to stewardship of resources, respect for place, and the health and well being of the broader community, now and for the future.

2.0 Sponsoring Unit

The Office of Sustainability (OS) is organizing the undergraduate certificate in collaboration with the Nelson Institute, which will function as the certificate’s administrative home and first point of contact. The certificate will be offered in conjunction with a number of campus partners. Letters of support from these units are attached in the appendix along with the approval letter from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.
3.0 Proposal Timeline

We are seeking approval in Spring 2014 and plan to implement the certificate program in Fall 2014.

4.0 Governance and Administration

The Undergraduate Study Committee of the Nelson Institute in conjunction with the certificate faculty advisory/oversight committee will address academic issues associated with the certificate for Environmental Studies. OS will work with these two committees to be responsible for facilitating coordination and development of the curriculum, admission, assessment, evaluation, supporting/staffing the capstone course and developing appropriate service, experiential learning and engagement opportunities.

An undergraduate certificate committee was selected from interested faculty with sustainability expertise, teaching one of the literacy courses or conducting research in sustainability. Faculty will serve for 2 years and replacement faculty will be recruited on an annual basis to replace those rotating off. The chair of this committee is appointed by Director of Sustainability Research in Education, who also serves as Co-Director of the Office of Sustainability.

An initial set of seven faculty have been recruited. The undergraduate committee has met once and organized sub committees to deal with roll out and academic decisions. In addition the chair of the undergraduate certificate faculty committee will serve on the Nelson undergraduate study committee and vice versa.

5.0 Curriculum/Program Description

Courses applicable for this undergraduate certificate will be numbered 699 or lower and be resident-based courses. Pass/fail courses are not allowed for the certificate. The 12-credit certificate will include the following coursework and community experience:

• Required Courses in Sustainability Principles and Literacy
  Select 3 courses (9 credits) out of six courses listed below. Note that other courses can be added to this list by making a request to the certificate faculty advisory/oversight committee and linking to the learning objectives.

  • ES 101, Forum on the Environment 2 credits Lectures and discussions about environmental issues. Historical and contemporary environmental impacts of humans on the biosphere. Global futures: population, technology, societal values, resources and prospects for sustainable management.
  • ES 126, ILS 126, Introduction to Environmental Science, (4 cr, P, no prerequisites, available for Honors). A place-based course in which students learn about sustainability issues relating to energy and food on the UW-Madison campus. The course teaches through campus initiatives such as WE CONSERVE to the underlying principles of environmental science. The weekly laboratory
meets in the "dream" collaborative teaching spaces of the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery that showcase sustainable building design.

- ES 250, *Introduction to Sustainability Science* (3 cr). This course aims to develop a solutions-oriented understanding of environmental and energy issues. To advance these goals, the course introduces basic quantitative analysis methods and builds these skills by solving problems inspired by real-world sustainability issues.

- Geography ES 139 *Resources and People* (3cr) An introductory exploration into the relationships between humans and the earth’s resources, including food, energy, physical materials, water, biota, and landscapes; it considers issues linked to population and scarcity, resource tenure, green consumerism, political economy, environmental ethics, risks and hazards, political ecology, and environmental justice.

- Geography ES 309 *People Land and Food* (3 cr) In this course we will examine how and why humans have transformed the global landscape and the consequences for biodiversity, climate, biogeochemical cycling and other ecosystem services needed to keep our planet habitable. We will explore these land-use change tradeoffs between human necessities such as food production and unintended consequences such as habitat loss, floods, and GHG emissions. We will study different agricultural systems in different regions and tackle topics such as food security, land scarcity, bioenergy and the impacts of agriculture on the environment. The drivers and pattern of tropical deforestation will also be a focus. We will examine a range of solutions from global policy to everyday decisions to feed and fuel the world without destroying the planet.

- Consumer Sciences 360 *Sustainable and Socially Just Consumption* (3 cr) pending department approval This course explores the role that consumers play in promoting sustainability and social justice. It examines the consequences of consumer choices on the environment and workers, as well as how policy and globalization can influence consumer choices.

**Community Engagement.** A community engagement experience will be coordinated with the Morgridge Center for Public Service from the Service Learning courses designated in the Course Guide and through the Badger Volunteer program. Credit bearing experiences are available through a registered service learning course, internships, and co-curricular opportunities such as Badger Volunteers, if prearranged with a faculty member. The purpose of this experience is to encourage students to develop a passion for lifelong civic engagement. It offers an opportunity to gain practical skills, while working with a community partner organization and serving our local Madison community.

**Capstone (3 cr).** ES 602 has approval from the Nelson Institute Curriculum Committee, Sustainability Capstone (3 cr). The capstone course was created by Professor Craig Benson and Angela Pakes Ahlman, adjunct professor in the College of Engineering, and OS External Relations Coordinator. The capstone course is an experiential team-based learning experience dealing with a sustainability issue in campus operations (if available) or in the Dane County area. Teams will be comprised of students from various departments and colleges to ensure that students experience the range of perspectives that
must be addressed for solution of sustainability problems. The capstone experience will have written and oral presentation requirements. Capstone required in other degrees may be considered as substitutes for this capstone requirement after an evaluation by the Director of Sustainability Research and Education for campus. The capstone has a capacity of 30 students.

6.0 Overlap limits

Is the certificate program duplicative of an existing or anticipated major?

Students may not earn the Sustainability Certificate and the Certificate in Environmental Studies or the Certificate in Energy Sustainability or the Environmental Studies major.

7.0 Assessment and Program Review

Certificate faculty advisory/oversight committee mentioned earlier and appropriate academic staff will oversee the certificate, review the proposed specific learning objectives as experience with the certificate evolves, and provide periodic assessment, including the five-year review. The certificate will be improved by evaluating the final products of the certificate capstone course. These student evaluations will be done by mentors, project judges and instructors associated with the capstone course. Based on the learning objectives/outcomes a series of performance indicators have been modeled after the approach developed on campus for ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). ABET accredits both undergraduate and graduate programs including the Civil and Environmental Engineering capstone course 578. We will use the capstone evaluation to identify any gaps in literacy course content via the certificate faculty advisory/oversight committee.

Undergraduate Sustainability Certificate Learning Objectives linked with courses

Learning objectives and associated courses include:

a. Set sustainability-related goals and develop strategies to implement these goals—capstone

b. Understand concepts related to Sustainability are found in a range of literacy courses and in the capstone course:

   i. Life cycle thinking all
   ii. Long term thinking and “Shifting baselines” Environmental Studies (ES) 101, ES 250, Geography 309
   iii. Sustainability frameworks, e.g., Triple bottom line Geography 309
   iv. Embodied resources including energy and water ES 101, ES 126
   v. Natural Capital and Biodiversity topically in ES 101, Geography 139, 309
   vi Multiple Stakeholder thinking capstone
   vii. Climate Change concepts ES 259, Geography 309

c. Link events in time and space so as to perceive the connections among them especially regarding sustainability…capstone, ES 126, ES 101

d. Analyze human decisions on the basis of their impacts on natural eco-systems, Geography 139, 309, Consumer sciences 360

e. Apply energy, resource, demand, and technology knowledge to value generation and use…ES
f. Understand sustainability issues from local, regional, and global perspective…ES101, ES 126, Geography 139, 309

g. Understand how public policy influences decisions….ES101, Geography 139, 309 and Consumer Sciences 360

h. Understand climate change, adaptation, and mitigation to extent necessary to support analyses, design, and policy decisions… ES 250

Learning objectives for the community engagement and the capstone include the following set of competencies:

- Can identify, understand and communicate with relevant stakeholders
- Can support better decision-making
- Can develop a personal philosophy and approach to advancing sustainability through profession and lifestyle
- Can address personal strengths and weaknesses in communication, management, and leadership
- Can practice accountability of decisions and actions, and has ownership of the results
- Can form and lead cross-functional, multi-disciplinary teams
- Can work effectively across cultural, geographic, political, and organizational boundaries.

8.0 Admissions

Students entering the certificate will be required to have earned a 3.0 gpa in any of the mandatory courses taken. Transfer students desiring to have non-specific transfer courses considered for a particular requirement, or students seeking an exception for a course not currently on the list of approved courses must meet with the undergraduate advisor who will review the course according to the learning objectives of the specific requirement.

The Undergraduate Programs Coordinator in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, currently Rebecca Ryan, will be responsible for advising all students in the certificate program and first point of contact for students declaring the certificate.

Angela Pakes Ahlman, Office of Sustainability, will monitor enrollment progress with oversight by the Faculty Committee. Certificate completion will be evaluated and determined by Rebecca Ryan of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies using DARS.

Admissions will be on a “first come--first served” basis until that year’s cohort of 25 is filled. Note that there is a cap of 100 for the program at this time.

Declaration of the certificate must not extend the students anticipated time to degree. Mike Pflieger has reviewed this proposal and indicated that it is consistent with DARS. He has also tested “time to degree” for several majors (L&S Geography, Business and Engineering) and it fits a “four year window.”

Students will be required to maintain a minimum GPA of a 2.8 to complete the certificate. Special students will not eligible because of the capacity considerations. All courses used to meet certificate requirements must be done as graded courses, no pass fail courses will
be allowed to meet certificate requirements.

9.0 Enrollment Progress and Certification Completion

The certificate will begin with cap of 100 students or 25 students per year until the cap is reached. The cap could be expanded after a 3-year period if demand is realized and appears persistent. Capacity issues have been discussed with the appropriate departments and the Nelson Institute—see letters of support.

10.0 Advising and Exceptions/Substitutions

Students will be advised by the Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the Nelson Institute, currently Rebecca Ryan.

Appendix A-2 contain some sample programs.

11.0 Resources and Ongoing Commitment

The office of Sustainability will provide TA support for additional certificate students taking mandatory courses to handle any capacity issues, as well as salary support for Angela Pakes Ahlman. The Nelson Institute will cover part of Becky Ryan’s position.

12.0 Sunset Provisions

The certificate executive committee will evaluate enrollment and capability on an annual basis. If enrollment trends or staffing indicate that certificate will not be viable in the future (e.g., 5 yr window), admissions to the certificate will cease and the certificate program will be decommissioned after students within the certificate program have completed their requirements and/or graduated.

Appendices

A-1 Interested key Faculty/Staff and members of the Undergraduate Sustainability Faculty committee*

The following faculty has indicated interest as being listed as key faculty from a 2012 survey of all interested faculty and their courses on sustainability:

Craig Benson,* Geological Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering
Greg Downey, School of Journalism
Patrick Eagan,* Engineering Professional Development
Thomas Eggert, lecturer, School of Business
Mark Finster,* School of Business
Holly Gibbs, Geography
Cathy Middlecamp,* Nelson Institute
Doug Reinemann,* Biological Systems Engineering
Jessie Steinberg, Philosophy
Ann Terlaak,* School of Business
Steve Ventura,* Soils, Nelson Institute
Sheldon Xiaodong Du, Agricultural and Applied Economics

A-2 Sample Course Programs

Engineering Example
- ES 250 Geography 139, 390
- Service Experience for Campus Transportation models
- Capstone

Business Example
- ES 126, Geography 139, Consumer Sciences 360
- Service Experience for Campus Business model for a local business
- Capstone

Community and Environmental Sociology
- Geography 139, 309, Consumer Sciences 360
- Service Experience for Campus local food sourcing for campus
- Capstone
August 15, 2013

To: University Academic Planning Council

Re: Undergraduate Sustainability Certificate

The Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies would like to express our enthusiastic support for the proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability, which will be a terrific complement to the existing array of UW majors, and will better prepare UW students for global citizenship, service, and graduate study in sustainability-related fields. The proposal for this new certificate, provided by Craig Benson, Co-Director of the UW Office of Sustainability, has been vetted by the Institute’s Governance Faculty and was approved by a unanimous vote of this group on Monday, November 19, 2012. Please note that the proposal has also received approval and further support from the Institute’s Instructional and Undergraduate Program Committees.

We find that the proposed certificate does not conflict with the existing Undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Studies. Specifically, the Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability’s key components – campus-based service learning and distributed model of curriculum geared around existing majors – differs substantially from Nelson’s current undergraduate programs and complements them greatly.

The Nelson Institute has therefore also given permission to the Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability to include at its core the following three mandatory courses that are offered through the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies:

- ES 101, Forum on the Environment (2 cr)
- ES 126, ILS 126, Introduction to Environmental Science, (4 cr)
- ES 250, Introduction to Sustainability Science (3 cr)

Furthermore, the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies has agreed to administer the Sustainability Certificate, acknowledging that demands on advising and program assessment will be necessary. The Institute intends to integrate these tasks within its current resource model and will call upon the Office of Sustainability to supplement these where necessary, especially in the coordination and execution of the Sustainability Certificate’s capstone service-learning component.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul Robbins, Director
6 March 2014

TO: Craig Benson, Director of Sustainability Research, Office of Sustainability
Patrick Eagan, Professor, Chair, Environment and Resources Program, Nelson Institute

FROM: John Karl Scholz, Dean, L&S
Kathryn Vanden Bosch, Dean, CALS

RE: Proposal to create a new Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability

CC: Elaine Klein, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, L&S
Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost and Director, Academic Planning and Analysis
Sarah Pfatteicher, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, CALS
Paul Robbins, Director, Nelson Institute

Over the course of several meetings between October 1, 2013 and March 4, 2014, the Academic Planning Councils of the Colleges of Agricultural and Life Sciences and of Letters & Science considered a request submitted by the Office of Sustainability (under the auspices of the Nelson Institute) to create a new Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability. The Council appreciated having the opportunity to hear from Professors Benson and Eagan, who addressed both the CALS and L&S APCs. The councils asked many questions about the proposal, and members appreciated the efforts made to revise it in response to their questions. The final proposal reflects a number of credits (12) better aligned with campus norms. The considerably more focused course array will be offered by departmental partners who are actively engaged in supporting the program.

Members understand that the APC of the Nelson Institute is satisfied that this program represents a distinct credential and does not overlap significantly with other programs offered through the institute. The L&S faculty appreciate that students will not be allowed to complete both this certificate and the L&S major in Environmental Studies (which Nelson offers under L&S sponsorship) or the certificate in Environmental Studies; this restriction honors our commitment that students should not be awarded two credentials for a single body of work. The CALS faculty encouraged inclusion of a course on Ecology in the program of study, noting the importance of biological science to the study of sustainability. Overall, we appreciate your responsiveness to the councils’ questions, and the efforts made to ensure that the program will be rigorous, focused, and will complement without duplicating a number of our programs.

On March 4, 2014, each council approved a motion to support creation of this program. We thank you for your patience as we worked through this process. We wish you all success with it.
Dr. Craig H. Benson
Director of Sustainability Research and Education
Office of Sustainability
CAMPUS

Dear Craig,

I am pleased to write in support of the proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability and to articulate the support that the Morgridge Center for Public Service is prepared to provide to students enrolled in the certificate program. The development of the certificate is timely and supports burgeoning student interest in environmental sustainability. In sum, the Morgridge Center, through its newly-created WE Badger Volunteer program, is initially prepared to place up to 500 students each semester, starting in Fall 2013, in experiential learning opportunities in the community. As with our current Badger Volunteer™ Program, Morgridge Center staff and students oversee the placement, transportation to and from, and completion of the student commitment to the community partner.

During Fall 2012, the Morgridge Center for Public Service established a new co-curricular program, WE Badger Volunteers as an extension of the highly successful Badger Volunteers™ Program. It grows Badger Volunteers™, in concert with the WE CONSERVE and WE-Volunteer™ programs pioneered by the office of Campus Sustainability Operations through Facilities Planning and Management. This program is triggered by strong interest among students, the larger campus community, and broader Madison-area community for students to have hands-on exposure to issues surrounding environmental sustainability.

WE Badger Volunteers is focused on UW-Madison’s bold vision related to sustainability created through the Task Force Report and the UW-Madison 2001-2014 Strategic Framework. Specific program emphasis targets environmental stewardship, while helping students and other members of the UW-Madison community become better informed and more involved in key issues associated with sustainability. WE Badger Volunteers is directed by the Morgridge Center, in partnership with WE CONSERVE, and focuses on community engagement, service and learning in the area of environmental sustainability. From the beginning, program designers

---

1 The University of Wisconsin-Madison will be a living model for sustainability, exemplifying values and actions that demonstrate our commitment to stewardship of resources, respect for place, and the health and well-being of the broader community, now and for the future. “UW-Madison Sustainability Initiative Task Force Final Report”, October 2010, University of Wisconsin-Madison
have envisioned this as a close partnership with the Office of Sustainability to support emerging curricular program needs among all schools and colleges. Although the Badger Volunteer™ model is designed as a co-curricular opportunity, the service and learning could easily be married through coordination with instructors affiliated with the certificate. The Certificate program requires 1 cr of service learning. We envision that the foundational course for this experiential learning requirement would integrate well with the WE Badger Volunteer program, combined with appropriate learning objectives and reflections through classroom meetings, to seamlessly create full service learning courses. This model is similar to that used by both the Community Environmental Scholars Program at the Nelson Institute and the Integrated Liberal Studies 400 Capstone Integration Seminar.

The Badger Volunteer™ program is based on the successful model, now seven years old, where students join teams and commit to volunteer two to three hours a week for the entire semester. The Center currently places over 500 students per week and over 1,000 students each academic year. The program has grown exponentially over the last six years and we have indications that achieving our goal of doubling the size of the entire Badger Volunteer program, through the addition of WE Badger Volunteers, is realistic by fall 2013.

WE Badger Volunteers is financially supported by both the Morgridge Center and WE CONSERVE. Access to the Volunteer Transportation Program (VTP) is ensured for students who participate in WE Badger Volunteers and who are enrolled in an approved service learning course. The VTP is offered to students who cannot get to their service location via the bus line or when bus rides exceed 40 minutes one way. This student service ensures that participation in the service learning requirement is not prevented due to logistical requirements of travelling to and from a service location.

We look forward to supporting the new certificate program upon approval. The We Badger Volunteer program is coordinated by Karen Crossley. Please feel free to contact either Karen or myself if you or others have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Mathews
Faculty Director

Cc: Faramarz Vakili, Patrick Eagan, Karen Crossley, Paul Robbins
April 18, 2013

Dr. Patrick Eagan, Education Fellow
Office of Sustainability, Chair of Environment and Resources Program,
Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
Madison Campus

Dear Pat:

At its meeting on April 10, 2013, the College of Engineering’s Academic Planning Council voted unanimously to endorse the Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability as presented to the council. It is believed that this certificate will provide interested engineering students as well as students from other disciplines with a background and a credential that will enhance their career opportunities.

It should be noted that the APC’s endorsement was given with the proviso that no College of Engineering resources would be required to support the implementation and administration of the certificate.

Please feel free to contact me with additional questions.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Cramer, PhD, PE
Assoc. Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor
College of Engineering
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1415 Engineering Drive
Madison, WI 53706

cramer@engr.wisc.edu
608-262-3484

Cc: Connie Brachman (APC Records)
September 23, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: Professor Patrick Eagan, Chair
   Environment and Resources Program
   Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

From: Wendy L. Way, Associate Dean

Re: Undergraduate Sustainability Certificate

I am pleased to be able to let you know that the School of Human Ecology Academic Planning Council has unanimously endorsed the undergraduate certificate in sustainability being proposed by the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. APC members agreed that providing a more formal opportunity for students to develop and document sustainability competencies would fill an important societal need and enhance student career preparedness. They were also supportive of listing a SoHE course, Consumer Science 360 – Sustainable and Socially Just Consumption, as one of the options for fulfilling core requirements in the area of ‘Sustainability Principles and Literacy.’

We look forward to working with you and the Nelson Institute on implementation of this new undergraduate option. Please let me know if there are questions or if any additional information is needed at this point.
Dear Pat,

The Curriculum Committee of the Department of Geography met and discussed the proposed Sustainability Certificate. You had asked whether the department would agree to have Geography/EnvSt 139 and/or 339 as core required courses for the proposed certificate. In addition, it has come to my attention that you are also considering Geography/EnvSt 309 as a course associated with the certificate.

The Curriculum Committee agrees that any of these three courses would be good additions to the proposed sustainability certificate and approve that these courses be part of its curriculum if your committee so decides.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Turner
Professor of Geography, UW-Madison
May 21st, 2013
Slow Food UW
1127 University Ave.
Madison, WI 53715

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Slow Food UW, I am writing in support of Professor Patrick Eagan’s initiative to add the Sustainability Certificate at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As a student organization on campus, Slow Food UW is entirely focused on improving sustainability through food systems. We work with student interns, fellow student organizations, and student volunteers every semester to help educate them on sustainability efforts and expand our outreach to the rest of the UW campus. Sustainability is an integral part of what we do, and our expansion since the organization’s inception in 2007 is a testament to the interest in sustainability as demonstrated by the students.

We believe a Sustainability Certificate is directly in line with recent additions in the University to make our campus more sustainable and to add to the Wisconsin Experience for students. In addition to the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Committee within the Associated Students of Madison student government, a Sustainability Certificate will give students a formal educational route to explore issues involving sustainability in any realm of study. Not only will this add to the Wisconsin Experience for current and future students, but it also clearly represents the Wisconsin Idea. As students, our sustainable efforts go beyond the borders of the University and the state. Expanding sustainability education by offering a Sustainability Certificate will truly improve the academic opportunities offered at UW.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have. I may be reached via email at cara@slowfooduw.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cara Ladd
Co-Director
Slow Food UW
cara@slowfooduw.org