May 26, 2015

To: University Academic Planning Council

From: Paul Robbins, Director, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

RE: Change of CIP Code for Environment and Resources graduate program

The Executive Committee of our Environment and Resources (E & R, formerly Land Resources) graduate program recently held its spring meeting on May 14th. One of the items the committee discussed was the program’s current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code – 03.0206, Land Use Planning and Management/Development.

The committee feels that the research of our E & R students is actually much broader than the current CIP code implies, and that a more all-encompassing code would be much more appropriate. In addition, the current code is proving problematic in that it does not qualify international alumni of the program for an Optional Practical Training (OPT) extension.

Thus, the members of the Committee voted unanimously to approve a CIP code change to 03.0103 Environmental Studies. This would bring our flagship graduate program into alignment with our undergraduate major and certificate offerings which also hold the Environmental Studies CIP code. Importantly the code change would also qualify the program’s international alumni for an OPT extension.

We respectfully ask the UAPC for permission to make this change.