Certificate in Sustainability and Climate Action

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

The Department of Public Health and Environmental Studies is proposing a credit bearing certificate in Sustainability and Climate Action. The 15-credit certificate was created for students who are concerned about the escalating climate crisis and who seek the foundational understanding and skills to lead societal and technological transitions necessary to achieve a sustainable world. The certificate strongly supports the recommendations of the Chancellor’s task force on Sustainability and Climate Action and of the 2025 draft Strategic Plan.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Certificate interests from students from a variety of majors.
2. Course availability and sequencing impact on time-to-certificate completion.
3. Pre-requisite courses needed to take required courses for certificate completion.
4. Student access to faculty advisors vs. ARCC advisors.
6. Different learning experiences for students based on course array completed to fulfill certificate requirements.

Pros of Recommendation:

Students in any major can pursue the certificate. Certificate completion aligns with the 2025 draft Strategic Plan. Relevant department chairs and program directors were consulted and support the inclusion of their course(s) in the certificate program.

Cons of Recommendation:

Uncertainty on impact to minors that may cover similar content.

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The committee recommends approval of the credit bearing certificate in: Sustainability and Climate Action to be administered by the Department of Public Health and Environmental Studies.
Certificate in Sustainability and Climate Action

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 9 for to 0 against on September 21, 2021 (Date)

Recommends that:

The Department of Public Health and Environmental Studies will offer a credit bearing certificate: Certificate in Sustainability and Climate Action starting with the 2022/23AY.

Implementation Date: 22/23 catalog

Signed: _____________________________________________

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office