Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Committee Action Requested: Recommend to the Board approval of the request to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Resource Management in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of the program: The Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Resource Management is an interdisciplinary major designed for students seeking careers in the broadly defined "outdoor environment" that relate to natural resources, environmental systems and sustainable development.

Reason for proposed termination: As an outcome of the Iowa Board of Regents Workforce Alignment Review analysis and report this program is considered a low enrollment major.

Effect on current students: Only one Environmental Resource Management (ERM) class is specific to the major. All other required courses are also taught as part of other programs in biology, geography, earth and environmental science and recreation. The existing ERM-specific course will continue to be taught by a geography instructor for the ERM minor and electives in geography, biology and recreation.

Enrollment and Completion Trends:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Majors	16	29	24	22	14
Graduates	1	7	7	7	3

Impact on resources: This change is meant to pursue efficiencies in course offerings and to create clarity in pathways for students. By consolidating Geographic Information Science, Environmental Resource Management and Geography into Geography and Geospatial Science Sciences, costs related to instruction, marketing and recruitment and administrative overhead will decrease (these are the same savings as noted in proposal to change to Geography and Geospatial Sciences, November Board docket item III.F.1).

Instructional Cost Efficiencies: 15 credits of common core that will be shared: $40,000 of savings (using the adjunct rate)

3 credit hour reduction: $8000 of savings

Marketing & recruitment streamlining efficiencies: $5,000 of savings

Administrative cost savings: Simplified curriculum, scheduling, streamlined advising and administrative tracking leading to $5,000 in savings

Total Estimated Cost Saving: $58,000

Impact on workforce: Graduates from the reorganized Geography and Geospatial Sciences, BS will continue to meet the workforce needs of the state.

Alternative programs: The University of Iowa offers Environmental Policy and Planning, with 5-year undergraduate-to-graduate degree paths, and Earth & Environmental Sciences (BA), emphasizing research, sustainability and management.

Iowa State University offers a Natural Resource Ecology and Management (NREM) program.

Date of Implementation: Upon approval of the Board of Regents.