Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GEOGRAPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Committee Action Requested: Recommend to the Board approval of the request to terminate the Bachelor of Arts in Geography 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 (BA) in Geography is an interdisciplinary liberal arts degree that explores the relationships between human societies, cultures and the physical environments they inhabit. It emphasizes social sciences, globalization, urban planning and resource management while offering flexible coursework.

Reason for proposed termination: In response to the Board of Regents Workforce Alignment Review analysis and report and limited student demand, UNI proposes eliminating the Geography BA.

Effect on current students: All current applicants, admitted students and current BA Geography majors will be allowed to finish their degree program. Future students will have the opportunity to pursue the reorganized Bachelor of Science in Geography and Geospatial Science.

Enrollment and Completion Trends:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Majors	8	9	10	16	15
Graduates	3	3	4	5	8

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: There are BA and BS degrees in Geographical and Sustainability Sciences at the University of Iowa. The programs focus heavily on the human-environmental feedback loops and sustainability. The two-degree programs have capacity, but new students to UNI are likely to choose the reorganized Bachelor of Science in Geography and Geospatial option.

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