REVISED DRAFT

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve a new Minor in Sustainable Agriculture, housed in the School of Natural Resources and Extension.

Effective: Fall 2016

Rationale: The demand for information on sustainable agriculture practices increases every year and competing Land Grant Universities throughout the nation offer degrees at multiple levels in sustainable agriculture. Creating a minor in sustainable agriculture is a necessary step to remain competitive in this field. The courses exist and offering them as part of this minor will address broad interests by students across disciplines, as well as enhance enrollments.

****

Overview:

Students of sustainable agriculture learn concepts and techniques that are environmentally and socially sound as well as profitable for agriculture and food production. The proposed minor is a cohesive suite of courses that provides a foundation in the emerging concepts and practices of soil, plant and animal management using a comprehensive, sustainable approach.

The courses in this minor focus on agroecology and the interactions of natural and agricultural ecosystems for a comprehensive sustainable approach. Traditional and alternative production systems will be examined to support healthy environments, cultures and economies, promoting food security and community structure. The sustainable agriculture concepts and principles will also be related to current issues such as population growth, changing climate, social structures and use of resources. The proposed courses already exist and currently are not running at capacity so there is no anticipated negative impact on budget, facilities/space or faculty.

Proposed Minor Requirements:

Sustainable Agriculture
The minor in Sustainable Agriculture is based on social, economic and environmental aspects of agriculture and food production. The curriculum supports a basic understanding of sustainability science in global and US. agriculture, and an appreciation for the integrated nature of the biological, physical and social sciences that make up sustainable agriculture.

1. Complete all of the following *
   NRM F101 – Natural Resource conservation and policy – 3 credits
   NRM F210 – Introduction to sustainable agriculture – 3 credits

NRM F235 – Introduction to Natural Resource Economics (ECON) - 3 credits

2. Complete 3 of the following
NRM F211 – Introduction to applied plant science – 3 credits
NRM F220 – Introduction to animal science – 3 credits
NRM F380 – Soils and the environment – 3 credits**
NRM F303X - Environmental Ethics and Actions (h) – 3 credits***
NRM F403 W, O - Environmental Decision Making – 3 credits

3. Minimum credits required – 18 credits
a) Students majoring in NRM are not eligible for the sustainability minor.

** Students must earn a C- grade or better in each course.*
***Prerequisites: CHEM F105X*
****Requires Junior standing*

Relationship to Purposes of the University:

The demand for information on sustainable agriculture practices increases every year. Offering a minor is the first step in addressing this demand and provides the foundation for future program building. The multidisciplinary nature of sustainable agriculture has broad appeal, spanning numerous departments campus wide and creation of the minor is expected to attract students from many of these different programs (e.g., Geography, Philosophy and Humanities, School of Management, Anthropology, Northern Studies, Cross-Cultural Studies, Biology). The minor is open to students from all other Departments and Schools.

Concepts of sustainability embrace current thinking in land use management and food security throughout the world and are informing policy decisions at home and abroad. Competing Land Grant Universities throughout the nation offer degrees at multiple levels in sustainable agriculture and although we are only proposing a minor, it is a necessary step to remain competitive. http://sustainableaged.org/projects/degree-programs/

Providing this introduction to students gives them insight into the interrelatedness of human and environmental values and the importance of food security at multiple levels.