SPECIAL REPORT

of the

ACADEMIC MATTERS AND
ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCILS

concerning

REVISION OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) DEGREE PROGRAM
IN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Presented at the
769th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
May 4, 2017

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The Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning is proposing revisions to its BS program in Sustainable Community Development. The revisions an updating of the list of required courses, renaming and updating and updating course lists for several concentrations, and adding a new independently designed concentration. The revisions are intended to make the program requirements more coherent, better indicate the content of concentrations, and (through the new independently designed concentration) enhance flexibility to meet changing student needs.

At its meeting on April 12, 2017, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the proposal. It was submitted as Proposal #3864 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

On March 23, 2017, the Academic Priorities Council discussed this proposal and endorsed approval of it. It was submitted as Proposal #3864 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

MOTION: **31-17**	That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree Program in Sustainable Community Development in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 17-075.

Please describe your proposal.

Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

The Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Department is proposing a revision of the required courses and concentrations for our undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Community Development. This update is designed to refresh the courses required to better match how the field has been changing, and align concentrations with student interests and faculty strengths. We are keeping the same number of core required classes, but reducing by one the number of required concentration courses to reflect the increase in credits from 4-credit classes; total required credits are similar to credit counts when the major was designed with all 3-credit classes. We are renaming three of the four concentrations and adding a very flexible, self-designed fifth concentration.

Please describe the requirements that you are proposing, listing course requirements, elective options, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

Currently, the SUSTCOMM degree requires a total of 16 classes, with eight including the integrative experience equaling 29 - 30 credits, plus eight classes in a concentration area for another 24 – 30 credits. Total credits taken for the major range from 52 - 60, as shown below. When the major was designed, these were three-credit classes totaling 48 credits (16 courses * 3 credits each).

Current eight required core classes:

Course No.	Course Name	Credits
SUSTCOMM 205	Dynamics of Human Habitation	4
SUSTCOMM 394A	Writing in Env Design	4
SUSTCOMM 394RI	Research Issues in Envir Design (IE)	4
LANDARCH 547 + 547L	Landscape Patterns and Process + Lab	4
SUSTCOMM 574	City Planning	3
SUSTCOMM 591B	Sustainable Cities	3
Choice of TWO History Classes (SUSTCOMM 140, 543, or 544)	Awareness of the Visual Environment, Landscape Architecture History I, Landscape History II (CHOOSE TWO)	Totaling 7 or 8
TOTAL CORE CREDITS		29 - 30

8 Concentration classes of 3- or 4-credit classes	24 to 30
TOTAL *CURRENT* CREDITS FOR MAJOR	53 to 60*

*When the major was designed with all 3-credit classes, it was 48 credits total.

We currently have four concentrations, as follows:
Urban Studies
Horticulture Studies
Built Environment
Landscape Studies

Concentration courses currently come from a very wide variety of courses across the university, and are developed each year by the Program Director. In 2016, for instance, approved courses for the urban studies concentration included 30 courses from departments ranging from Anthropology to Sociology and many in between. Each of the concentrations has its own list, but the idea is the same – concentration courses came from all over with little criteria for choice among the ones on the list.

We currently have a successful accelerated master's degree, either the 4+1 in Master of Regional Planning which the new curriculum needs to support. Students seeking the MRP will need to take 12 credits of 500-level core MRP required courses in their senior year. In addition, students who seek to take our 2-year Master of Landscape Architecture (instead of the standard 3-year program) need to use electives to take 12 credits of the 500-level landscape architecture studio in their final undergraduate year.

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

We propose to keep the same number (8) of required classes totaling 29-30 credits, but to list different courses that better represent the field and provide a coherent core and progression of knowledge. The following list is our proposed required courses, and also shows the keywords for each for core knowledge area. Courses with an asterisk* have a change into the Faculty Senate or are new offerings. These shown assuming the Senate approvals go through with the names. Each one is explained in the section following this.

Course No.	Name	Keyword for Knowledge	Credits
SUSTCOMM 110	Transforming Your World: Intro to Community Engagement	Engagement	4
SUSTCOMM 140	Awareness of the Visual Environment	Design	4
SUSTCOMM 297S*	Sustainable Cities	Sustainability	3
SUSTCOMM 394A*	Writing in Community Development and Landscape Architecture		4
SUSTCOMM 394RD*	Research Issues in Community Development	Research	4
LANDARCH 547/L	Landscape Pattern and Process + Lab	Landscape Ecology	4
SUSTCOMM 574	City Planning	Urban Planning	3
Either SUSTCOMM 543 (Landscape Architecture History I), or 544 (Landscape Architecture History II)		History	4
TOTAL PROPOSED CREDITS			29 to 30

6 Concentration classes of 3- or 4-credit classes	19 to 24
TOTAL PROPOSED CREDITS FOR MAJOR	48 to 54

We are proposing five concentrations entitled as follows:

City and Society (was Urban Studies)
Landscape Design/Build (was Horticulture)
Built Environment (no change)
Climate Change and Green Infrastructure (was Landscape Studies)
Independently Designed Concentration

The required six concentration courses in each area will provide 19 – 24 credits, depending on the selection of 3- or 4-credit classes for any one student. Thus the major requires a minimum credit of 48 (29 core + 19 concentration) to a maximum of 54 (30 core + 24 concentration).

For each of these concentrations, we will require at least four SUSTCOMM or LARP designated courses be taken, so that students develop in-depth knowledge of the field. Below we list 5 or 6 LARP classes from which students will select 4 for their concentration courses. The remainder of courses for their concentrations could be taken from LARP but more likely will be chosen from other departments of the university. We will provide each year a list of university wide courses that can be taken for each concentration (the "approved course list"). The exception to the above is the Landscape Design/Build concentration, which requires a more technical foundation and for which all six concentration courses are prescribed. Each concentration's description and required courses are as follows.

City and Society (CS): This concentration builds a broad social science understanding of how cities work, and how they can be influenced to better serve a broad range of goals with a particular focus on community engagement and social and environmental justice. Students with this concentration often go to work in government agencies, start their own non-profit organizations, or go on for a Masters degree in planning or other related fields. This concentration works well for students pursuing the accelerated Masters in Regional Planning (the 4+1 program).

CHOOSE FOUR OF THESE concentration-required courses and 2 from the approved courses list:

Course No.	Name	Credits
SUSTCOMM 125	Global Cities and Global Issues	4
SUSTCOMM 205	Dynamics of Human Habitation	4
SUSTCOMM 333*	Intro to Community Economic Development	3
SUSTCOMM 397P	Planning Tools and Techniques	3
REGIONPL 545*	Intro to Land Use	3
REGIONPL 577	Urban Policies	3

Landscape Design/Build (LDB): This concentration serves students who want to design and build landscapes in a sustainable way. This major provides an excellent background for those who want to go on for a Master in Landscape Architecture or go to work for design and contracting firms. Requirements are suited to entry for students with 2-year Associates Degrees in Landscape Contracting or related fields, and with the addition of 500-level LANDARCH studios in the senior year. This concentration works well for students hoping to go into the 2-year Master of Landscape Architecture.

ALL SIX OF THESE courses for the LDB concentration:

Course No.	Name	Credits
LANDARCH 294A	Construction Materials	4
LANDARCH 297A	Fundamentals of Design (studio)	3
LANDARCH 297M	Business Concepts of Landscape Contracting	3
LANDARCH 397B	Residential Design (studio)	3
SUSTCOMM 335	Plants in the Landscape	4
BCT 550	Construction Project Management	3

Built Environment (BE): This concentration focuses on technical skills for understanding design and planning at the building scale, to bridge building technology, architecture and landscape. Students can go on to a wide range of design and technology positions or fields of graduate study, including architecture and related fields.

CHOOSE FOUR OF THESE concentration-required courses and 2 from the approved courses list:

Course No.	Name	Credits
SUSTCOMM 205	Dynamics of Human Habitation	4
SUSTCOMM 291A	Intro to Environmental Design	3
SUSTCOMM 297L	Visual Communication: Design Principles and Digital Skills	3
LANDARCH 587	People and the Environment	3
LANDARCH 592M	Material Experiments	3
SUSTCOMM 597A*	Digital Technology for Design Representation	3

Climate Change and Green Infrastructure (CCGI): This concentration focuses on the ways that cities and buildings can reduce greenhouse gasses, improve livability and resilience, and enhance ecology through infrastructure and planning interventions. Students can go to work in sustainability-related professions, urban planning and design. They are well placed to attend graduate school in a wide variety of climate or design related fields.

CHOOSE FOUR OF THESE concentration-required courses and 2 from the approved courses list:

Course No.	Name	Credits
SUSTCOMM 197C*	Climate Change and Cities	4
SUSTCOMM 397P	Planning Tools and Techniques	3
REGIONPL 585	Planning for Climate Change	3
LANDARCH 533*	Urban Greening Theory & Practice	3
LANDARCH 591	Sustaining Green Infrastructure Planning and Design	3
LANDARCH 582	Landscape and Green Urbanism	3

Independently Designed Concentration (ID): If a SUSTCOMM major has potential professional interests at the intersection of the standard concentrations, that student may, in consultation with a concentration advisor and with the approval of the Program Director, combine LARP courses from the various standard concentrations to allow more interdisciplinary focus, e.g., cultural heritage, urban policies and plans regarding built environment, etc. Such a concentration could also be designed to support applications to the 4+1 accelerated Master of Regional Planning, or with the addition of 500-level studios in LANDARCH, to the 4 + 2 accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture.

CHOOSE FOUR LARP (SUSTCOMM or LANDARCH or REGIONPL) COURSES and two from the approved course list in consultation with the concentration advisor. Proposed plans for study must be approved in writing by the Concentration Advisor (Mark Hamin) by the second week of Spring Semester (i.e., second semester) of the Junior Year.

There will be no change in admissions policies or other relevant policies.

Proposed changes to individual courses incorporated into the proposal above.

*Starred courses above are either new experimental/special topics offerings or have changes in to the Faculty Senate of one form or other, as detailed below.
To provide a more coherent, orderly progression from freshman level through sophomore and junior course levels and to assure coverage of basic content, we will need to offer three new courses (shown below). Next year, we will work to move all special topics or experimental courses to permanent numbers, as appropriate. Faculty coverage will be addressed by reassigning faculty from low enrollment classes. These are:

- SUSTCOMM 197C: Climate Change and Cities
- SUSTCOMM 297S: Sustainable Cities (was a section of REGIONPL 580)
- SUSTCOMM 333: Introduction to Community Economic Development (proposal #3631)

Several courses are changing names to better reflect current content and the SCD major:
- SUSTCOMM 394A: new title "Writing in Community Development and Landscape Architecture" (proposal #3821)
- SUSTCOMM 394RI: new title "Research Issues in Community Development" (proposal #3825)
- SUSTCOMM 597A: new title "Digital Technology for Design Representation" (proposal #3754)

One course is moving from experimental to permanent with a new course number:
• SUSTCOMM 533: Urban Greening Theory and Practice (proposal #3813)

One course is moving from a 600-level to a 500-level to allow SUSTCOMM majors to enroll:
• REGIONPL 545: Introduction to Land Use (was RP645) (proposal #TBA)

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

The curriculum for the SUSTCOMM was previously the curriculum for the Environmental Design major, and had not been updated in many years. When we requested the change of major name, we indicated an intent to update curriculum; this proposal achieves that goal.

The SUSTCOMM major as envisioned provides content across major areas of community-level sustainability, including ecology, economy, equity, engagement, and sustainability theory. It also provides field specific knowledge in urban design, planning, and history. The content is much more coherent and in line with the name of the major. It also aligns with what we are currently teaching, and thus is resource effective.

The proposal continues our most highly enrolled concentrations – urban studies and built environment. The current Horticulture concentration has very small enrollment; transitioning that to Landscape Design/Build creates a clearer professional path for students and will serve students who learn by doing. The Climate Change and Green Infrastructure concentration brings together a number of courses faculty are offering, serves students who wish to focus on the design for and social science of climate change, and helps set our major apart from other fields. The independently designed concentration enables flexibility to meet changing student needs.

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

Instruction in new courses will be handled by moving faculty from lower enrollment courses to these new courses.

There is no change to current TA requirements. However, as enrollments increase, we may require additional sections/labs. Junior Year Writing (SUSTCOMM 394A) and Research Issues in Env Design (SUSTCOMM 394) require TAs at about 15 to 20:1 to enable feedback on writing.

We anticipate that the number of students enrolling in the Landscape Design/Build will double from existing levels in the very low enrollments in Horticulture, and that Climate Change and Green Infrastructure may triple from the low enrollments in the less-descriptive Landscape Studies. This would suggest increases in enrollment of approximately 30 – 50 student majors per year over current levels. We should be able to handle these levels in the new Design Building or the new Academic Classrooms building.