PRESENTED BY: Susan Detmer, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: November 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Termination of the Master of Sustainable Environmental Management (MSEM) program

DECISIONS REQUESTED: It is recommended:

That Council approve the termination of the Master of Sustainable Environmental Management (MSEM) degree program, effective August 2021.

PURPOSE:
University Council has the authority to delete degree programs.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:
With the introduction of the Master of Sustainability (M.Ss.) program, the existing MSEM program is redundant. Though this degree program is being deleted, there will be no course deletions, as all courses will become either required or elective courses for the M.Ss. program. Staff who currently support the MSEM program will shift to support of the new M.Ss. program.

CONSULTATION:
The academic programs committee reviewed the proposal for this termination at its October 21, 2020 meeting, alongside the proposals for the new degree and certificate programs in sustainability. The committee expressed some concern about losing a program that has developed some recognition, but recognized the importance of various sustainability streams under a single degree program and also recognizes that the new program will strengthen Usask’s reputation and visibility in this area. APC voted at its October 21, 2020 meeting to recommend this termination be approve by Council.

Prior to APC’s review, the planning and priorities committee reviewed this proposal in conjunction with the proposals for the M.Ss programs at October 7, 2020 meeting. This termination was also reviewed and approved by the CGPS Programs committee on September 8, 2020 and by the CGPS Executive Committee on September 23, 2020.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Program Termination Form – Master of Sustainable Environmental Management
MEMORANDUM

To: Executive Committee of CGPS

Copy: Dr. Maureen Reed, Assistant Director, School of Environment and Sustainability

From: Graduate Programs Committee

Date: September 15, 2020

Re: Termination of Master of Sustainable Environment Management

On September 8, 2020, the Graduate Programs Committee considered the termination of the Master of Sustainable Environment Management (M.S.E.M.) to coincide with the introduction of the new Master of Sustainability (M.Ss.) degree programming.

While it had been anticipated that the M.S.E.M. would be replaced with the new M.Ss. degree programming proposed earlier, it was not explicitly clear, and the proponents have now provided that confirmation.

The Graduate Programs Committee passed the following motion unanimously:

Motion: To recommend approval of the termination of the Master of Sustainable Environment Management degree. Chibbar/Da Silva

Attached please find the full proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Clement at kelly.clement@usask.ca

:kc
Program(s) to be deleted: Master of Sustainable Environmental Management (MSEM)

Effective date of termination: August 2021

1. List reasons for termination and describe the background leading to this decision.

SENS has undertaken a major revision of the MSEM program. We re-imagined it into a Master of Sustainability (MSs) with two fields of study housed within the program: Regenerative Sustainability and Energy Security. The Regenerative Sustainability is the revised MSEM. By combining the two fields of study in a single Master’s program, we anticipate increased viability, sustainability, and appeal of the program and heightened recognition of USask as an international contributor to sustainability research and education. We also aim to use this structure as a model from which we can build future fields of study—e.g., Biocultural Conservation and Food Security. Additionally, this structure will more easily allow us to build and deliver some common foundational courses that can serve all MSs fields of study, and thus, create some economy of scale. The impetus behind undertaking a major revision of our MSEM program was to create an exceptional program that 1) meets the current and future demand from industry and community stakeholders for an energy program, 2) aims to build key skills and knowledge for sustainability practitioners to take leadership roles, and 3) increases equity through enhanced accessibility and flexibility of program delivery.

2. Technical information.

2.1 Courses offered in the program and faculty resources required for these courses.

The required courses (total 18 cu) for the MSEM are

- ENVS 805 Data Analysis and Management (required in the new MSs with new title/same content)
- ENVS 806 Field Skills in Environment and Sustainability (elective in MSs)
- ENVS 807 Sustainability Theory and Practice (required course in MSs)
- ENVS 808 Tools and Applications in Sustainability Problem-solving (elective in MSs)
- ENVS 992 Project in Environment and Sustainability (required in MSs)
- Plus 12 cu of electives

All courses are delivered by SENS faculty.

2.2 Other resources (staff, technology, physical resources, etc.) used for this program.

The MSEM is supported by two staff members: the Graduate Student Advisor and Placement Coordinator. These resources will shift to support the MSs.

2.3 Courses to be deleted, if any.

None. Two of the required MSEM courses will become electives and may be offered less frequently to allow opportunities to offer the new MSs courses.
2.4 Number of students presently enrolled.

There are 28 students currently enrolled in the MSESM for the 2019–2020 academic year. This is a one-year professional program that runs from September to August. We anticipated the same demand (if not more) for the Regenerative Sustainability field of study and expect the maximum enrolment (30–35) students into this field.

2.5 Number of students enrolled and graduated over the last five years.

Over the past 5 years (2014/2015–2018/2019), 82 students have enrolled in the MSEM program, and to-date we have graduated 76 of those 82 enrolled. As for the most recent year (2019–2020), 30 students enrolled in the program; however, since the program runs from September to August, we do not have any graduate numbers on these students yet, though we anticipate almost all of them will graduate in October 2020 or May 2021.

3. Impact of the termination.

3.1 What if any impact will this termination have on undergraduate and graduate students? How will they be advised to complete their programs?

There will be very minimal impact on students. The MSEM is a one-year professional program. Almost all students complete within the one-year timeframe. We anticipate that the MSs proposal will be approved and implemented in May 2021. Students enrolled in the 2020–2021 academic year will have the option to complete the MSEM as offered or transfer into the new MSs. The required MSEM courses will still be offered as electives to ensure that the final cohort of students still have the option to complete the MSEM if they choose.

3.2 What impact will this termination have on faculty and teaching assignments?

None.

3.3 Will this termination affect other programs, departments or colleges?

No.

3.4 If courses are also to be deleted, will these deletions affect any other programs?

No. The courses will still be offered as electives though perhaps less frequently.

3.5 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop a program to replace this one?

No, we have developed the Master of Sustainability to replace the MSEM.

3.6 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop courses to replace the ones deleted?

No, not applicable. No courses will be deleted.
3.7 *Describe any impact on research projects.*

Not applicable. The MSEM is a one-year professional program.

3.8 *Will this deletion affect resource areas such as library resources, physical facilities, and information technology?*

No, all resources will be shifted to support the Master of Sustainability.

3.9 *Describe the budgetary implications of this deletion.*

The budget will not be negatively affected. As mentioned the Regenerative Sustainability field of study is the re-envisioned MSEM. We anticipate the same enrolment numbers for this stream with added enrolments from the addition of a second field of study (Energy Security). Additionally, by sharing a common core between the two fields of study, we will also be creating some economies of scale.

External

3.10 *Describe any external impact (e.g. university reputation, accreditation, other institutions, high schools, community organizations, professional bodies).*

We do not foresee any negative external impacts as we will continue to offer high-quality graduate programming in Environmental and Sustainability studies/science. By revising our MSEM to the Master of Sustainability, we will be honouring our commitment to provide graduate programming requested and validated by our Indigenous, community, and industry partners. We will also build capacity in areas of high demand, strongly aligned with the university’s strategic plan and in response to the needs of Canada and the world.

3.11 *Is it likely or appropriate that another educational institution will offer this program if it is deleted at the University of Saskatchewan?*

No, it is unlikely. However, some other institutions already offer Sustainability Management programs (e.g., Royal Roads University’s MA/MSc in Environment and Management, Dalhousie’s Master of Resource and Environmental Management, SFU’s Master of Resource and Environmental Management, UNB’s Master of Environmental Management, etc.). In fact, by revising our MSEM, we believe the re-envisioning will further strengthen SENS’s and the university’s reputation. SENS will offer fields of study and program content that sets us apart from other sustainability programs domestically and internationally; currently, no other institutions offer programs specifically focused on renewable energy in northern and remote communities or regenerative sustainability.

Other

3.12 *Are there any other relevant impacts or considerations?*

None.

3.13 *Please provide any statements or opinions received about this termination.*

None.
4. Additional information. Programs which have not undergone recent formal reviews should provide additional relevant information about quality, demand, efficiency, unique features, and relevance to the province.
Consultation with the Registrar Form

This form is to be completed by the Registrar (or his/her designate) during an in-person consultation with the faculty member responsible for the proposal. Please consider the questions on this form prior to the meeting.

Section 1: New Degree / Diploma / Certificate Information or Renaming of Existing

1. Is this a new degree, diploma, or certificate? [Yes] [No] [X]
2. Is an existing degree, diploma, or certificate being renamed? [Yes] [No] [X]
3. If you've answered NO to each of the previous two questions, please continue on to the next section.

2. What is the name of the new degree, diploma, or certificate?

3. What is the credential of this new degree, diploma, or certificate? [Example - D.M.D. = Doctor of Dental Medicine]

4. If you have renamed an existing degree, diploma, or certificate, what is the current name?

5. Does this new or renamed degree / diploma / certificate require completion of degree level courses or non-degree level courses, thus implying the attainment of either a degree level or non-degree level standard of achievement? [Yes] [No]

6. If this is a new degree level certificate, can a student take it at the same time as pursuing another degree level program? [Yes] [No]

7. If YES, a student attribute will be created and used to track students who are in this certificate alongside another program. The attribute code will be:

8. Which College is responsible for the awarding of this degree, diploma, or certificate?

9. Is there more than one program to fulfill the requirements for this degree, diploma, or certificate? If yes, please list these programs.

10. Are there any new majors, minors, or concentrations associated with this new degree / diploma / certificate? Please list the name(s) and whether it is a major, minor, or concentration, along with the sponsoring department. [One major is required on all programs [4 characters for code and 30 characters for description]]

11. If this is a new graduate degree, is it thesis-based, course-based, or project-based?
Section 2: New / Revised Program for Existing or New Degree / Diploma / Certificate Information

1 Is this a new program? Yes No X
   Is an existing program being revised? Yes No X
   If you've answered NO to each of the previous two questions, please continue on to the next section.

2 If YES, what degree, diploma, or certificate does this new/revised program meet requirements for?

3 What is the name of this new/revised program?

4 What other program(s) currently exist that will also meet the requirements for this same degree(s)?

5 What College/Department is the academic authority for this program?

6 Is this a replacement for a current program? Yes No

7 If YES, will students in the current program complete that program or be grandfathered?

8 If this is a new graduate program, is it thesis-based, course-based, or project-based?

9 If this is a new non-degree or undergraduate level program, what is the expected completion time?
Section 3: Mobility

Mobility is the ability to move freely from one jurisdiction to another and to gain entry into an academic institution or to participate in a learning experience without undue obstacles or hindrances.

1 Does the proposed degree, program, major, minor, concentration, or course involve mobility?  
   Yes ☐ No ☑

If yes, choose one of the following:
   - Domestic Mobility (both jurisdictions are within Canada)
   - International Mobility (one jurisdiction is outside of Canada)

2 Please indicate the mobility type (refer to Nomenclature for definitions).
   - Joint Program ☐
   - Joint Degree ☐
   - Dual Degree ☐
   - Professional Internship Program ☐
   - Faculty-Led Course Abroad ☐
   - Term Abroad Program ☐

3 The U of S enters into partnerships or agreements with external partners for the above mobility types in order to allow students collaborative opportunities for research, studies, or activities. Has an agreement been signed?
   Yes ☐ No ☐

4 Please state the full name of the agreement that the U of S is entering into.

5 What is the name of the external partner?

6 What is the jurisdiction for the external partner?
Section 4: New / Revised Major, Minor, or Concentration for Existing Degree Information (Undergraduate)

1 Is this a new or revised major, minor, or concentration attached to an existing degree program?  
   Yes [ ] No [X] Revised [ ]  
   If you've answered NO, please continue on to the next section.

2 If YES, please specify whether it is a major, minor, or concentration. If it is more than one, please fill out a separate form for each.

3 What is the name of this new / revised major, minor, or concentration?

4 Which department is the authority for this major, minor, or concentration? If this is a cross-College relationship, please state the Jurisdictional College and the Adopting College.

5 Which current program(s), degree(s), and/or program type(s) is this new / revised major, minor, or concentration attached to?

Section 5: New / Revised Disciplinary Area for Existing Degree Information (Graduate)

1 Is this a new or revised disciplinary area attached to an existing graduate degree program?  
   Yes [ ] No [X] Revised [ ]  
   If you've answered NO, please continue on to the next section.

2 If YES, what is the name of this new / revised disciplinary area?

3 Which Department / School is the authority for this new / revised disciplinary area? (NOTE - if this disciplinary area is being offered by multiple departments see question below.)

4 Which multiple Departments / Schools are the authority for this new / revised disciplinary area?

4a Of the multiple Departments / Schools who are the authority for this new / revised disciplinary area and what allocation percentage is assigned to each? (Note - must be whole numbers and must equal 100.)

4b Of the multiple Departments / Schools who is the primary department? The primary department specifies which department / school policies will be followed in academic matters (ex. late adds, re-read policies, or academic misconduct). If no department / school is considered the primary, please indicate that. (In normal circumstances, a department / school with a greater percentage of responsibility - see question above - will be designated the primary department.)

5 Which current program(s) and / or degree(s) is this new / revised disciplinary area attached to?
Section 6: New College / School / Center / Department or Renaming of Existing

1 Is this a new college, school, center, or department? 
   Yes [ ] No [X] 

   Is an existing college, school, center, or department being renamed? 
   Yes [ ] No [X] 

   Is an existing college, school, center, or department being deleted? 
   Yes [ ] No [X] 

If you've answered NO to each of the previous two questions, please continue on to the next section.

2 What is the name of the new (or renamed or deleted) college, school, center, or department? 

3 If you have renamed an existing college, school, center, or department, what is the current name? 

4 What is the effective term of this new (renamed or deleted) college, school, center, or department? 

5 Will any programs be created, changed, or moved to a new authority, removed, relabelled? 

6 Will any courses be created, changed, or moved to a new authority, removed, relabelled? 

7 Are there any ceremonial consequences for Convocation (i.e. New degree hood, adjustment to parchments, etc.)? 

Section 7: Course Information - not applicable

1 Is there a new subject area(s) of course offering proposed for this new degree? If so, what is the subject area(s) and the suggested four (4) character abbreviation(s) to be used in course listings?

2 If there is a new subject area(s) of offerings what College / Department is the academic authority for this new subject area?

3 Have the subject area identifier and course number(s) for new and revised courses been cleared by the Registrar?

4 Does the program timetable use standard class time slots, terms, and sessions? Yes [ ] No [x]
   If NO, please describe.

5 Does this program, due to pedagogical reasons, require any special space or type or rooms? Yes [ ] No [x]
   If YES, please describe.

NOTE: Please remember to submit a new “Course Creation Form” for every new course required for this new program / major. Attached completed “Course Creation Forms” to this document would be helpful.
Section 8: Admissions, Recruitment, and Quota Information - not applicable

1. Will students apply on-line? If not, how will they apply?

2. What term(s) can students be admitted to?

3. Does this impact enrollment?

4. How should Marketing and Student Recruitment handle initial inquiries about this proposal before official approval?

5. Can classes towards this program be taken at the same time as another program?

6. What is the application deadline?

7. What are the admission qualifications? (IE. High school transcript required, grade 12 standing, minimum average, any required courses, etc.)

8. What is the selection criteria? (IE. If only average then 100% weighting; if other factors such as interview, essay, etc. what is the weighting of each of these in the admission decision.)

9. What are the admission categories and admit types? (IE. High school students and transfer students or one group? Special admission? Aboriginal equity program?)

10. What is the application process? (IE. Online application and supplemental information (required checklist items) through the Admissions Office or sent to the College/Department?)

11. Who makes the admission decision? (IE. Admissions Office or College/Department/Other?)

12. Letter of acceptance - are there any special requirements for communication to newly admitted students?

13. Will the standard application fee apply?

14. Will all applicants be charged the fee or will current, active students be exempt?

15. Are international students admissible to this program?
Section 9: Government Loan Information - not applicable

NOTE: Federal / provincial government loan programs require students to be full-time in order to be eligible for funding. The University of Saskatchewan defines full-time as enrollment in a minimum of 9 credit units (operational) in the fall and/or winter term(s) depending on the length of the loan.

1. If this is a change to an existing program, will the program change have any impact on student loan eligibility?

2. If this is a new program, do you intend that students be eligible for student loans?

Section 10: Convocation Information (only for new degrees) - not applicable

1. Are there any ‘ceremonial consequences’ of this proposal (ie. New degree hood, special convocation, etc.)?

2. If YES, has the Office of the University Secretary been notified?

3. When is the first class expected to graduate?

4. What is the maximum number of students you anticipate/project will graduate per year (please consider the next 5-10 years)?

Section 11: Schedule of Implementation Information - not applicable

1. What is the start term?

2. Are students required to do anything prior to the above date (in addition to applying for admission)? Yes ☐ No ☐
   If YES, what and by what date?
Section 12: Registration Information - not applicable

1 What year in program is appropriate for this program (NA or a numeric year)?
   (General rule = NA for programs and categories of students not working toward a degree level qualification.)

2 Will students register themselves?  
   If YES, what priority group should they be in?
   Yes [ ]  No [ ]

Section 13: Academic History Information - not applicable

1 Will instructors submit grades through self-serve?  
   Yes [ ]  No [ ]

2 Who will approve grades (Department Head, Assistant Dean, etc.)?

Section 14: T2202 Information (tax form) - not applicable

1 Should classes count towards T2202s?  
   Yes [ ]  No [ ]

Section 15: Awards Information - not applicable

1 Will terms of reference for existing awards need to be amended?  
   Yes [ ]  No [ ]

2 If this is a new undergraduate program, will students in this program be eligible for College-specific awards?

Section 16: Government of Saskatchewan Graduate Retention (Tax) Program - not applicable

1 Will this program qualify for the Government of Saskatchewan graduate retention (tax) program?  
   Yes [ ]  No [ ]

   To qualify the program must meet the following requirements:
   - be equivalent to at least 6 months of full-time study, and
   - result in a certificate, diploma, or undergraduate degree.
Section 17: Program Termination

1. Is this a program termination? Yes X No
   If yes, what is the name of the program?
   MSEM-P-GP - Master of Sust EnvMgmt-Project

2. What is the effective date of this termination?
   202105 [May 2021]

3. Will there be any courses closed as a result of this termination? Yes X No
   If yes, what courses?

4. Are there currently any students enrolled in the program?
   Yes X No
   A search for active students in this program in Degree Works returns 74 students
   Accommodations will be made so that current students will be able to complete the program.

5. If not, what alternate arrangements are being made for these students?

6. When do you expect the last student to complete this program?
   It is anticipated that all students should complete by Aug. 31, 2021; however, maximum time for completion would be Aug. 31, 2025.

7. Is there mobility associated with this program termination? Yes X No
   If yes, please select one of the following mobility activity types.
   - Dual Degree Program
   - Joint Degree Program
   - Internship Abroad Program
   - Term Abroad Program
   - Taught Abroad Course
   - Student Exchange Program

   Partnership agreements, coordinated by the International Office, are signed for these types of mobility activities. Has the International Office been informed of this program termination?
**Section 18: Proposed Tuition and Student Fees Information - not applicable**

1. How will tuition be assessed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Undergraduate per credit</th>
<th>Standard Graduate per credit</th>
<th>Standard Graduate per term</th>
<th>Non standard per credit*</th>
<th>Non standard per term*</th>
<th>Other*</th>
<th>Program Based*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

* See attached documents for further details

2. If fees are per credit, do they conform to existing categories for per credit tuition? If YES, what category or rate?

3. If program based tuition, how will it be assessed? By credit unit? By term? Elsehow?

4. Does proponent’s proposal contain detailed information regarding requested tuition? If NO, please describe.

5. What is IPA’s recommendation regarding tuition assessment? When is it expected to receive approval?

6. IPA Additional comments?

7. Will students outside the program be allowed to take the classes?

8. If YES, what should they be assessed? (This is especially important for program based.)

9. Do standard student fee assessment criteria apply (full-time, part-time, on-campus versus off-campus)?

10. Do standard cancellation fee rules apply?

11. Are there any additional fees (e.g. materials, excursion)? If yes, see NOTE below.

12. Are you moving from one tuition code (TC) to another tuition code? If YES, from which tuition code to which tuition code?

13. Are international students admissible to the program? If yes, will they pay the international tuition differential?
NOTE: Please remember to submit a completed "Application for New Fee or Fee Change Form" for every new course with additional fees.
Section 19: TLSE - Information Dissemination (internal for TLSE use only)

1. Has TLSE, Marketing and Student Recruitment, been informed about this new / revised program?  
   Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Has TLSE, Admissions, been informed about this new / revised program?  
   Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Has TLSE, Student Finance and Awards, been informed about this new / revised program?  
   Yes ☐ No ☐

4. Has CGPS been informed about this new / revised program?  
   Yes ☐ No ☐

5. Has TLSE, Transfer Credit, been informed about any new / revised courses?  
   Yes ☐ No ☐

6. Has ICT-Data Services been informed about this new or revised degree / program / major / minor / concentration?  
   Yes ☐ No ☐

7. Has the Library been informed about this new / revised program?  
   Yes ☐ No ☐

8. Has ISA been informed of the CIP code for new degree / program / major?  
   Yes ☐ No ☐

9. Has Room Scheduling/Scheduling Hub/Senior Coordinator of Scheduling been informed of unique space requirements for the new courses and/or informed of program, course, college, and department changes?  
   Yes ☐ No ☐

10. Has the Convocation Coordinator been notified of a new degree?  
    Yes ☐ No ☐

11. What is the highest level of financial approval required for this submission? Check all that apply.
    a. None - as it has no financial implications ☐
    OR
    b. Fee Review Committee  ☐
    c. Institutional Planning and Assessment (IPA)  ☐
    d. Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP)  ☐
    e. Board of Governors  ☐
    f. Other  ☐

SIGNED

Date:

Registrar (Russell Isinger):

College Representative(s):

IPA Representative(s):