Date: April 1, 2014

To: Paul Robbins, Director, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies  
    Craig Benson, Director, Office of Sustainability

From: Paul M. DeLuca, Jr.  
      Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

RE: March 2014 Academic Program Change: Certificate in Sustainability

I am writing with formal notice that the University Academic Planning Council (UAPC) has approved the proposal to implement a new undergraduate-level certificate, the Certificate in Sustainability. The academic home of the certificate will be the Nelson Institute. The Nelson Institute will partner with the Office of Sustainability on delivery of this program.

The certificate will be available to students starting in Fall 2014.

In the course of the discussion, UAPC members concluded that the admissions process did not appear to be adequate for the expected student demand. The program has set a cap of 25 new students per year, although it is generally recognized that demand is expected to be much higher. As designed, admissions will be on a first-come, first-served basis. However, UAPC members did not consider this to be sufficient. To address this concern, please provide a report back to Jocelyn Milner on a plan for admissions no later than May 23, 2014. (You will need to also provide a revised implementation form at that time.) In keeping with good practice, admissions considerations should focus on student interest and preparedness for work in this subject (should not be primarily based on grades) and should take into consideration issues of equity in access to the certificate.

Supporting materials are posted here should you need to refer to them:  

Please contact Jocelyn Milner (jmliner@wisc.edu) if you have any questions.

Attachment: Implementation Form – Certificate in Sustainability

Copies:
Pat Eagan, Office of Sustainability  
Paul Zelder, Nelson Institute  
Steve Hahn, Interim Vice Provost for Enrollment Management  
Scott Owczarek, Registrar  
Susan Fischer, Office of Student Financial Aid  
Philip Hull, Office of the Registrar  
Cathy Easter, Bursar  
Adele Brumfield, Undergraduate Admissions  
Andre Phillips, Undergraduate Admissions  
Rebecca (Becky) Ring, Undergraduate Admissions  
Teresa Adams, Facilities Planning and Management  
Doug Rose, Space Management  
John Lucas, University Communications  
Toni Good, University Communications  
Wren Singer, Director of the Office of Advising  
William Heiss, Office of the Secretary of the Faculty  
Tim Norris, Madison Budget Office  
Clare Huhn, Academic Planning and Institutional Research  
Sara Lazenby, Academic Planning and Institutional Research  
Michelle Young, Academic Planning and Institutional Research  
Jocelyn Milner, Academic Planning and Institutional Research