20 November 2017

TO: Sarah Mangelsdorf, Provost
FROM: John Karl Scholz, Dean
RE: Request to Suspend Admissions to, and Discontinue, GIS Capstone Certificate
CC: Greg Downey, Associate Dean for Social Science, L&S
Marty Gustafson, Assistant Dean, Graduate School
William Karpus, Dean, Graduate School
Elaine Klein, Associate Dean for Academic Planning, L&S
Sarah Kuba, Academic Planner, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
Lisa Martin, Associate Dean, Graduate School
Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost and Director, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
James Montgomery, Associate Dean for Fiscal Initiatives, L&S
Lisa Naughton, Professor and Chair, Geography
Parmesh Ramanathan, Associate Dean, Graduate School
Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Associate Dean for Academic Administration
Eric Wilcots, Associate Dean for the Natural and Mathematical Sciences

On November 7, 2017, the L&S Academic Planning Council considered the attached request concerning the Capstone in GIS (Program Code UNCS 358) be suspended effective Fall 2018 and discontinued altogether no later than Spring 2020. Two new capstone certificates, in “GIS Fundamentals” and in “Advanced GIS,” as well as a new named option in the existing MS-Cartography/GIS, create multiple pathways of professional study through the GIS program that render this program obsolete. Students currently enrolled in the program, as well as students who are admitted prior to program suspension, will be able to complete the program to which they were admitted; they will also be offered the opportunity to transfer into the new program, in the event that the less costly, less credit intensive certificate programs, or the master’s degree, better serves their needs.

The L&S APC approved this request, which complements and completes previous actions taken.
To: Elaine Klein, Associate Dean for Academic Planning, College of L&S; Greg Downey, Associate Dean for Social Science, College of L&S; Karl Scholz, Dean of the College of L&S

cc: Ian Muehlenhaus and Brittney Markle, GIS Professional Programs, Geography; Jocelyn Milner, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and Director, Academic Planning and Institutional Research; Keith Woodward, Faculty and Chair of Graduate Affairs Committee, Geography

Re: Suspension and Discontinuation of Existing In-Residence GIS Capstone

October 24, 2017

The Department of Geography is requesting that admission to the in-residence Capstone in GIS be suspended beginning Fall 2018 and that the program be discontinued altogether no later than Spring Semester 2020.

Geography is in the process of launching two new, 12-credit, online GIS capstones in Fall 2018. We also plan to launch a 30-31 credit, in-residence Accelerated Non-Thesis Master’s Option in Cartography and GIS starting Fall 2018.

There are currently 23 students enrolled in the in-residence Capstone program with completion dates ranging from Fall 2017 to Spring 2019, contingent upon part-time/full-time status. Additionally, we are accepting applications for Spring 2018 admissions. Discontinuation of the Capstone at the end of the Spring 2020 semester allows sufficient time for all current and spring ’18-admitted students to complete the program. Capstone students will also be offered the opportunity to apply directly into the Accelerated or Online Master’s Programs.

The Department of Geography will provide clear communication via email, websites, and advising to prospective and current students regarding the suspension and discontinuation timeline of the Capstone. We will also use the same means to advertise the option for students to transfer into one of our Professional Master’s Programs.

Geography’s Graduate Affairs Committee approved this request on Oct 18, 2017.

Thank you for considering our request.

Lisa Naughton
Chair of the Department of Geography