

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UDC Resolution No. 2016-

SUBJECT: Approval of a Bachelor of Arts Degree Program in Urban Sustainability

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Official Code §38-1202.06(3), the Board of Trustees is authorized to establish or approve policies and procedures governing admissions, curricula, programs, graduation, the awarding of degrees, and general policy for components of the University; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR § 308.1, new associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree programs may be added to the University curricula upon recommendation by the Faculty Senate and the President and after approval by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the University's Vision 2020 Strategy plan expresses the commitment of the University to offer students flexible degree options that prepare them for careers in the new green economy, which careers require skills in environmental impact assessment, sustainable development, urban sustainability, and environmental project management across a broad range of fields, including the health and wellness field, the building trades, the hospitality sector, finance and law; and

WHEREAS, the University has offered several professional development workshops that have illustrated the effectiveness of flexible "meta-majors" (collections of academic majors that have related courses) in increasing student success and graduation rates, particularly for transfer students who bring academic credit(s) with them to the University; and

WHEREAS, the University of the District of Columbia and its College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) are active partners in the Sustainable DC Initiative of the District of Columbia, which seeks to position Washington, DC to become the greenest, healthiest and most sustainable city in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Urban Sustainability degree program has received the approval of all levels of faculty and administration at the program level, the college level and university-wide;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of the District of Columbia is hereby authorized to implement the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Sustainability Degree Program in accordance with the attached proposal, *provided that* any funds required to implement the program shall not be obligated until they have been identified and reprogrammed within existing University resources.

Submitted by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee

October 24, 2016

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

December 2, 2016

Elaine A. Crider
Chairperson of the Board



Fiscal Impact Statement

TO: The Board of Trustees
FROM: Managing Director of Finance *David L. Franklin*
DATE: October 11, 2016
SUBJECT: B.A. Urban Sustainability

Conclusion

It is concluded that there is sufficient funding to support the implementation of the proposed Bachelor of Arts Degree Program in Urban Sustainability in the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences (CAUSES).

Background

The new fast growing green economy requires skills in environmental impact assessment, environmental project management, sustainability literacy, and sustainable development across a broad range of career fields including the health and wellness sector, the hospitality industry, the building trades, finance, urban planning, law, and education. Demand for graduates who are sustainability literate and skilled in environmental assessment and management is growing rapidly across many career fields.

UDC students require a degree program that trains them in the sustainability skills of the green economy in a flexible manner that accommodates their pre-existing educational endeavors to the greatest extent possible. The curriculum for the proposed BA degree program in Urban Sustainability is designed as a meta-major. This curriculum model has a proven record of increasing student success and graduation rates particularly for transfer student populations who already bring preexisting academic credit to the University.

The proposed BA degree in Urban Sustainability has received the approval of all levels of faculty and administration at the program, the college, and the university level.

Financial Impact

The proposed BA degree program in Urban Sustainability will be supported by existing faculty resources from across the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental, but especially through its land-grant specialists who have teaching responsibilities as a part of the

contract. No new courses will be added under the proposal. Additional faculty resources may become necessary once the program grows beyond 35 majors.

The Office of the Provost must monitor program milestones on an annual basis to determine continual viability of the program. This request has been approved based on the information provided. There are no anticipated risks at this time.

Emergency Curriculum Committee Minutes – April 22, 2015

Curriculum Committee Members in Attendance:

Genell Anderson	Urban Architecture and Community Planning
Thomas Kakovitch	Environmental Science
John Slack, Chair	Health Education

- I. Welcome/Call to Order – Chairman Slack opened the meeting at 2:15 pm on April 22, 2015
- II. Confirmation of Quorum – Chairman confirmed that there was a quorum present
- III. New business:
 - Approval of curriculum for Bachelor of Science Degree in Architecture with a Concentration in Urban Sustainability
 - Approval of curriculum for Minor in Environmental Science

Urban Sustainability Concentration was reviewed and motion presented by Prof. Anderson and seconded by Dr. Slack. Prof. Anderson, Dr. Slack and Dr. Kakovitch approved the motion as presented. Dr. Jean-Baptiste and Dr. Ganganna provided proxy votes in favor of the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Environmental Science Minor was reviewed and motion presented by Prof. Kakovitch and seconded by Dr. Slack. Prof. Anderson, Dr. Slack, Dr. Kakovitch approved the motion as presented in favor of the motion. Dr. Ganganna provided proxy vote abstaining. Prof. Jean-Baptiste provided a proxy vote opposing the motion. The motion passes 3 yes: 1 no

The transmittal was signed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FOR A META-MAJOR: THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY SUMMARY

Introduction

The College of Agriculture Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia is responding to the request by the University's President and Chief Academic Officer to develop strategies to increase graduation rates and student success at UDC. The strategy we propose is a BA degree in Urban Sustainability that is designed as a Meta-Major.

During its faculty development program in August 2015 and again in January 2016 UDC introduced the results of research conducted by Complete College America and by the University of Georgia that suggests that a successful strategy to facilitate student success is to offer Meta-Majors. A meta-major is broadly defined to offer students a more flexible course of study in a broad topical area as opposed to a more narrowly defined major in a specific program or academic discipline. The Meta-Major allows a student to choose a degree that communicates an area of interest that aligns with their career aspirations while offering a more flexible course of study that is more likely to accommodate a student's transfer credits.

CAUSES first submitted this proposed BA in Urban Sustainability on Nov. 7, 2014 and resubmitted it on January 22, 2016. The full proposal is attached as Appendix A. It follows the required outline that is also replicated in this summary:

A. The Request

B. The Program of Study

C. Feasibility

1. Demonstration of Need
2. Congruence
3. Duplication and Overlap with Existing Programs
4. Relationship with Other Programs/Departments/Schools/Colleges
5. Accreditation Standards
6. Number of Students
7. Effect on Student Development/Employment/Program Effectiveness
8. Adequacy and Appropriateness of Current Faculty/Support Staff
9. Adequacy of Current Facilities
10. Estimated Costs/Funding Requirements
11. Additional Needs
12. Proposed date of Implementation

D. Conclusion

Following approval by the Department of Architecture and Urban Sustainability and by the College Curriculum Committee of CAUSES, the BA of Urban Sustainability was submitted to the faculty Senate and was approved by the Faculty Senate at its May 2016 meeting. CAUSES Senator Prof. Genell Anderson presented the proposal and Dr. Susan Kliman, Dr. Prema Ganganna, and Dr. Elgloria Harrison attended. The proposal for a 4-year generic pre-licensure BS degree in nursing was approved at the same meeting and a lengthy discussion regarding the M'Arch degree and the MS degree in Nutrition & Dietetics was recorded.

In October of 2016 CAUSES was informed that the faculty senate disputed the approval of the BA in Urban Sustainability due to procedural violations, but confirmed the approval of the BS degree in nursing. We had proposed to launch the BA in Urban Sustainability in the fall semester of 2015.

However, due to reasons out of our control, this proved too ambitious of a timeline. We now anticipate a launch of the new degree in the fall of 2017.

1. Demonstration of Need

UDC attracts a large number of transfer students. Many of these students bring a number of transfer credits with them. These transfer credits are often incompatible with the specific graduation requirements for 4-year degree offered at University.

While it is always preferable to advise students to graduate in a major that prepares them for success in a chosen career, sometimes the ability to graduate and to earn a bachelors degree is a tremendous accomplishment in and of itself. Achieving a degree can boost a student's confidence and set the direction for future success.

With the founding of the UDC community college, UDC moved its liberal studies major to the community college where students can obtain an Associate Degree in liberal studies. This leaves students who wish to pursue a 4-year degree, without a general studies option that facilitates their expedient progress toward a 4-year degree.

The proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability fills the need for a flexible degree option at the 4-year college. It achieves both needed flexibility and a needed career focus: (1) it introduces the flexibility of a broad based degree option similar to a general studies or liberal studies major, and thus allows a student to meet graduation requirements even if their earned credit hours are not in one consistent field of study; and (2) it also allows a student to graduate with a degree that communicates his/her chosen area of interest in the field of sustainability that signifies the green job market of the future.

The Urban Sustainability degree is interdisciplinary, yet at the same time offers students the necessary focus to prepare the for career success in the fast emerging sustainability field that cuts across virtually every career field including construction and building trades, law, health, planning, management, and a range of other fields. The United State Office of Labor and Statistics estimates job growth in environmental fields to exceed 21% by 2020, not counting related job growth in the energy, construction, legal, health and insurance fields. This related job growth stems from an increased demand for environmental impact and environmental health assessments in the construction sector, the health care field, transportation, energy, and a range of other sectors. Job growth in these sectors is projected at between 20% (energy) and 85% (health). National student enrollment in environmental fields increased by almost 40% over the past ten years to meet this growing demand.

Demand for sustainability related job training in Washington DC is extremely robust. Over the past six months CAUSES has received requests for workforce development certificates and professional development workshops from the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), the District Department of General Services (DGS), and DC Water. Regrettably, UDC does not offer a 4-year degree or a 2-year degree in the sustainability field or the environmental field that would allow workforce development students to continue their course of study in a degree-granting program.

The proposed Meta-Major fills this much needed need. The proposed degree can also be easily combined with a minor in various academic fields represented in CAUSES, CAS, SBPA and SEAS. Table 1 in Appendix A summarizes the competencies the proposed BA in Urban Sustainability will develop and the corresponding employment opportunities open to graduates of the proposed degree.

2. Congruence with Academic Unit Objectives and University Mission

With the founding of the UDC community college, UDC moved its liberal studies major to the community college where students can obtain an Associate Degree in liberal studies. This leaves

students, who wish to pursue a flexible 4-year degree, without a liberal studies option that facilitates their expedient progress toward a 4-year degree.

The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability closes a gap in the UDC curriculum that puts UDC students seeking a flexible 4-year degree at a distinct disadvantage. Many UDC students are transfer students who are returning to the university to complete a degree that they started often many years prior, and often at a university other than UDC. The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability offers a flexible degree option at the 4-year level, yet consistent with the concept of the Meta-Major it offers a content focus that allows a student to communicate his/her chosen area of interest in the field of sustainability that signifies the green job market of the future.

The BA in Urban Sustainability is therefore congruent with the goals of UDC and of CAUSES. Goal 1 of the UDC Strategic Plan Vision 2020 seeks to "...align offerings in workforce, community college and flagship programs to establish well-defined pathways to baccalaureate, graduate and professional degrees". Given the demand of DC agencies for sustainability related workforce development and training options, the proposed BA in Urban Sustainability closes the gap by offering a much needed 4-year degree in a fast growing field.

Goal 2 of the UDC Strategic Plan Vision 2020 seeks to "...engage students in courses of study at all levels that combine opportunities for broad liberal education in the arts and sciences with strong pre-professional education, co-curricular activities and opportunities for research involvement and service learning." The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability meets this goal. It meets this goal. It meets university's general studies requirement, allows transfer students to accommodate their previously earned credits through flexible electives, builds on the CAUSES commitment to experiential learning, and offers viable career preparation to students interested in community planning and sustainable development who would not be able to meet the more stringent requirements of an architecture degree.

Goal 3 of the UDC Strategic Plan Vision 2020 seeks to "...expand degree options and expand graduate's marketability by structuring flexible academic programs from stackable program elements (certificates, concentrations, minors) that can be combined to create interdisciplinary programs that meet emerging workforce requirements." The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability meets this goal as stated in the explanation offered above.

Goal 4 of the UDC Strategic Plan Vision 2020 seeks to "...improve teaching and learning by utilizing research from learning sciences and educational psychology that informs best practices." As presented in August 2015 and January 2016 during the mandatory faculty development programs offered by the CAO of the University, the benefits of a Meta-Major have been well researched and constitute best practices especially for universities who have a large number of transfer students. These students typically earn a far larger number of credit hours than would be necessary for graduation. The introduction of the more flexible Meta-Major therefore improves graduation rates and thus the University's overall performance.

Goal 5 of the UDC Strategic Plan Vision 2020 seeks to "... partner with the D.C. Government, business, profit, and non-profit sectors in conducting research, providing outreach, and graduating students who are prepared to solve pressing urban issues of the District and the greater metropolitan area." The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability meets this goal and adds much needed capacity to the proven commitment of CAUSES to respond to the needs of our private, public and no-profit sector partners.

Goal 6 of the UDC Strategic Plan Vision 2020 seeks to "... significantly increase enrollment across all levels (workforce to graduate/professional) by continuing to serve DC residents while broadening, growing, and strengthening national and international recruitment and implementing proven retention strategies." The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability meets this goal and adds much needed recruitment opportunities for the University. With the elimination of the Environmental Science major in 2014, UDC does not offer any degree options in a sustainability or environmental related field. Given the consistent growth of the green economy, this puts UDC at a

distinct disadvantage compared to other metro-area universities. The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability would close this serious gap in the University's degree offerings.

3. Avoidance of Duplication or Overlap with Existing Courses or Programs

The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability draws on existing courses in Architecture and Community Planning, and in Environmental Science. No new courses are needed to offer the proposed degree. The degree will be offered as a Bachelor of Arts degree option and will add a much-needed major at the BA level. All other undergraduate degrees in CAUSES are BS degrees limiting degree options for students who are less prepared in the sciences.

There is no duplication across programs and units within CAUSES or any of the other UDC colleges. The proposed BA degree fills a serious gap in the University's degree offerings in the field of sustainability and the environmental field. The proposed degree is expected to produce strong student numbers and markedly improve student enrollment. The recent addition of landgrant certificate programs in the field of Urban Sustainability confirms strong interest in this area of study.

4. Relationship with other programs/departments/schools/colleges

The proposed curriculum does not present a conflict with other UDC programs, departments, schools and colleges. It presents instead many opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability can be combined with a number of minors and concentrations. This combination of a meta-major and a minor or concentration (for example, Urban Sustainability and Health Education; or Urban Sustainability and Marketing) allows a student to indicate a focus of their course of study that aligns with their career interests.

5. Standards of relevant accrediting agencies and/or professional societies

The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability is not subject to accreditation standards. However, the proposed curriculum is in line with best practices standards in the sustainable development and environmental fields, as well as with best practices standards of a meta-major.

6. Number of Students Immediately Affected and Projected Enrollment

UDC students who have a number of transfer credits and an interest in the sustainability or environmental field will immediately benefit from the introduction of the BA in Urban Sustainability. Recruitment events also indicate persistent disappointment among interested recruits when they learn that UDC does not offer a degree in Urban Sustainability despite the name of CAUSES.

Historically, enrollment history in Environmental Science was small at UDC. Yet enrollment trends pointed to considerable growth potential. Between 2012 and 2014 enrollment increased from 3 to 19 Environmental Science majors. Interest in environmentally related fields has increased across the country and in the DC metro region. Recent experience in the University's landgrant programs confirms the robust interest in the field of sustainability and related fields. For example, a certificate program in urban agriculture that was launched in 2015 had 18 enrollees in its first semester, and 46 in its second semester. Interest in other certificates like rain garden design, water management, and related fields also continues to grow.

'Introduction to Environmental Science' and 'Introduction to Urban Sustainability' are currently offered courses that enjoy consistently strong enrollment, especially when they are cross listed as general education courses in Discovery Science. This indicates strong growth potential for the proposed BA in Urban Sustainability. It is expected that the new Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability will be in high demand and will have an enrollment of 100 students within three to five years of its launch.

7. Effect on Student Development/Employment/Program Effectiveness

The University of the District of Columbia will benefit from the proposed BA in Urban Sustainability in two main ways: (1) the proposed degree will improve UDC graduation rates by allowing more students who are currently enrolled to complete a bachelors degree within the four-year or six-year

timeframe.(2) the proposed degree has significant growth potential and is expected to increase student enrollment at the undergraduate level by attracting new students.

The proposed degree offers an option for landgrant certificate and workshop participants in urban sustainability and green infrastructure related programs. It is also a feeder programs for the PSM in Urban Sustainability.

8. Adequacy and Appropriate Qualification of Current Faculty and Support Staff

The BA in Urban Sustainability utilizes only existing courses that are currently taught by tenured faculty members and qualified landgrant staff. There are a sufficient number of qualified instructors that have the skills, expertise, experience and educational credentials to teach within the proposed BA degree program. The proposed major will also provide a seamless transition to the new environmental studies major that is expected to be implemented in 2017 as outlined in the academic goals of the University's Strategic Plan, Vision 2020.

9. Adequacy of Current Facilities (offices, classrooms, labs, etc.).

Current facilities, including classroom and laboratory space are adequate and will accommodate the proposed BA in Urban Sustainability. There are no additional space requirements associated with the full implementation of the proposed major. The proposed program will require a modest amount of supplies and some transportation associated with fieldwork in some of the laboratory sections of the program. These expenses are in line with ordinary expense associated with operating an academic unit in CAUSES.

10. Adequacy of Supplies and Equipment

There are no new/additional costs or funding requirements

11. Estimated Costs, Available Funds and Funding Requirements

The proposed BA in Urban Sustainability will not require any additional courses that are not already offered in CAUSES. The proposed degree will draw on existing courses from architecture, environmental science, health education, and nutrition. Operationally, the proposed BA in Urban Sustainability will be housed in the Department of Architecture and Urban Sustainability in CAUSES.

12. Adequacy of Supportive Library and Technical Resources

This program will utilize existing, adequate, University library and technical resources. No new resources are needed or requested at this time.

Conclusion

The proposed Meta-Majors in Urban Sustainability will offer UDC students an important option among the four-year degree offerings of the University. It will (1) improve UDC graduation rates by allowing more students who are currently enrolled at UDC to complete a more flexible BA degree; (2) add career preparation in a high-demand field that constitutes a growth area in the DC metro region, and across the nation and internationally; and (3) it will offer opportunities for enrollment growth at the undergraduate level by attracting new student to UDC filling a serious gap of degree offerings in the fast growing sustainability and environmental field.

The proposed BA degree in Urban Sustainability is a logical continuation for non-degree bearing workforce development programs offered through the landgrant centers in CAUSES; and its will create a pipeline for the PSM degree in Urban Sustainability and Waster Resources Management. It therefore constitutes and exemplar of the University's goal of creating seamless workforce to degree options in the fast growing green jobs market.

**CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FOR A META-MAJOR:
THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY**

Submitted November 7, 2014

Resubmitted January 2016

A. The Request

The College of Agriculture Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia is responding to the request by the University's President and Provost to develop strategies to increase graduation rates and student success at UDC.

UDC attracts a large number of transfer students. Many of these students bring a number of transfer credits with them. Yet often these credits are not consistent with the specific graduation requirements for any of the majors offered at UDC.

With the founding of the UDC community college, UDC moved its liberal studies major to the community college where students can obtain an Associate Degree in liberal studies. This leaves students, who wish to pursue a 4-year degree, without a general studies option that facilitates their expedient progress toward a 4-year degree.

Moreover, research on student retention and success conducted Complete College America, suggests that a successful strategy to facilitate student success is to offer Meta-Majors. These broadly defined majors in a broad topical area or academic field offer students a more flexible course of study than a more narrowly defined major in a specific program or academic discipline; yet the Meta-Major also allows a student to chose a degree that communicates an area of interest that aligns with their career aspirations.

The proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability offers students a broadly defined degree option at the bachelor's degree level that indicates their interest in a career in the sustainable development, urban development, and environmental management field. The Meta- Major in Urban Sustainability will be offered as a BA degree.

The proposed Meta-Major can be easily combined with a minor in various academic fields represented in CAUSES, CAS, SEAS, and SBPA. The proposed major therefore offers students a path toward degree completion in an area of their interest, while also allowing them to build on the academic credit earned at UDC and/or at academic institutions other than UDC. As would be expected, the Urban Sustainability degree is highly interdisciplinary, yet also offers sufficient content focus to prepare students for career success in the fast emerging sustainability field that cuts across virtually every career field including construction and building trades, law, health, planning, management, and a range of other fields.

B. The Program of Study

The proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability, draws on existing courses in Architecture and Community Planning and Environmental Science. No new courses are needed to offer the proposed degree. The degree will be offered as a Bachelor of Arts degree option and will add a much needed major at the BA level. All other undergraduate degrees in CAUSES are BS degrees.

C. Feasibility

1. Demonstration of Need

Enrollment data suggests that UDC has one of the lowest graduation rates in the United States. It also indicates that UDC students frequently earn far more than the number of credit hours necessary to graduate. They lack, however, the right kind of credit hours to meet graduation requirements in any one major area of study. While it is always preferable to advise students to graduate in a major that prepares them for success in a chosen career, sometimes the ability to graduate and to earn a bachelors degree is a tremendous accomplishment in and of itself. Achieving a degree can boost a student's confidence and set the direction for future success.

The proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability achieves both; it introduces the flexibility of a broad based degree option similar to a general studies or liberal studies major, and thus allows a student to meet graduation requirements even if their earned credit hours are not in one consistent field of study. It also allows a student to graduate with a degree that communicates his/her chosen area of interest rather than receiving a degree that is completely generic and does not communicate the student's interests and career aspirations. Since the proposed major introduces a broad topical area and content focus in sustainability it accommodates both of these important aspects of student success and satisfaction.

The proposed major consists entirely of existing courses. As with any other major at UDC, the proposed courses in the major will be combined with the existing general education requirements for the BA degree. Selected existing courses in the general education core will provide students with the competencies expected of a bachelor degree graduate. The expected competencies are also consistent with the CAUSES student aspiration goals that apply to all CAUSES graduates regardless of their chosen major. CAUSES students will be:

- Global citizens committed to local relevance
- Adept at solving urban problems
- Committed to health & wellness and food & water security
- Skilled at navigating diverse social, cultural, built and natural environments
- Independent thinkers and collaborative team players; and
- Adaptive lifelong learners.

Examples of competencies and corresponding employment opportunities are summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1

Urban Sustainability	Examples of competencies expected of bachelor degree graduate in Urban Sustainability	Employment Opportunities Some positions require graduates to take a national exam upon completion of the bachelor degree
Analytical skills	Graduate is able to utilize data to address scientific, political, ethical, and social public health issues. Graduate is able to carry out a wide range of laboratory and field tests that are accurate and precise. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research from a variety of sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Scientist • Environmental Specialist • Environmental Health & Safety Specialist • Hazardous Substance Scientist • Solar Photovoltaic Installer • Environmental Protection Specialist • Environmental Project Manager • Environmental Impact Analyst • Registered Environmental Health Specialist • Urban Planner • Urban Development Analyst
Critical-thinking skills	Reach conclusions through sound reasoning and judgment. Must have the ability to determine the best way to address urban environmental issues.	
Communication and Interpersonal skills	Ability to communicate in writing and orally, in person, and through electronic means that demonstrate language and cultural proficiency Ability to communicate in a variety of settings	
Listening skills	Graduate is able to carefully and accurately follow instructions that will facilitate providing accurate and precise results of an experiment or field test.	
Cultural Competency skills	Graduate is able to explain the dynamic forces that contribute to cultural diversity and the built environment. Graduate is able to consider the role of cultural, social, and behavioral factors in the accessibility, availability, acceptability and delivery of urban and environmental health issues	

2. Congruence

The proposed major in Urban Sustainability closes a gap in the UDC curriculum that puts UDC students at a distinct disadvantage. UDC currently does not offer a General Studies degree, or Liberal Studies degree that is generic enough to allow students to graduate even if they have earned academic credit in multiple fields. Many UDC students are transfer students who interrupted their academic studies, and who are returning to the university to complete a degree that they started often many years prior, and often at a university other than UDC.

At the same time, students are often reluctant to choose a major that does not clearly communicate their career aspirations and interests. A liberal studies degree may not be a satisfactory option especially for those students who wish to complete their degree in order to advance professionally or to reposition themselves in their chosen career field.

In order to complete their four-year degree in a timely manner these students need a flexible degree option also referred to as a Meta-Major. Without such a flexible degree option, students have to take an excessive number of course hours to meet the necessary graduation requirements in any one major field of study. Many UDC students have more than the necessary credit hours to graduate, but they have not taken their courses in a consistent academic program and therefore cannot meet the graduation requirements in any specific major. A UDC student thus may have 150 or even 180 credit hours in course work, but may still not be able to graduate.

The proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability offers a solution to this persistent problem without duplicating the efforts of any one of the degree programs offered at UDC. The proposed major is broad enough to allow students to count a broader range of courses toward their major course of study. At the same time, the courses that constitute the major offer some common content to allow students to communicate their field of interest. The proposed major thus meets the definition of a so called Meta-Major. The topical meta-major can be tremendously helpful to students and to the university in achieving higher students success rates, higher graduation rates, and higher student satisfaction by graduating students earlier and without an excessive number of credit hours earned.

3. Duplication and Overlap with Existing Programs

There is no duplication across programs and units within CAUSES or any of the other UDC colleges. On the contrary, the proposed Meta-Major fills a serious void that stems from the fact that the university currently does not offer an environmentally focused degree at the undergraduate level. In light of the tremendous interest in environmental and sustainability related fields, and the tremendous employment opportunities in the green jobs sector, this constitutes a serious omission. The proposed degree option is expected to produce strong student numbers and markedly improve student enrollment. Recent additions to the University's landgrant certificate programs in the field of Urban Sustainability and Green Jobs confirm strong interest in this area of study.

4. Relationship with Other Programs/Departments/Schools/Colleges

The proposed curriculum does not present a conflict with other UDC programs, departments, schools and colleges. It does, however, present many opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration since the proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability can be combined with a number of minors and concentrations. This combination of a Meta-Major and a minor or concentration (for example, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science; or Urban Sustainability and Marketing) allows a student to indicate a more discipline specific focus of their course of study that aligns well with their career interests.

5. Accreditation Standards

The proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability is not subject to accreditation standards. The proposed curriculum is in line with best practices standards in the field of environmental science, environmental studies, sustainable development and urban sustainability, as well as with best practices standards associated with a Meta-Major.

6. Number of Students

Historically, enrollment in the University's Environmental Science was small. However, after moving the Environmental Science major to CAUSES, enrollment trends pointed to considerable growth potential. Between 2012 and 2014 enrollment increased from 3 to 19 Environmental Science majors. Interest in environmentally related fields has increased across the country and in the DC metro region. Recent experience in the University's landgrant programs confirms the robust interest in the field of sustainability and related fields. For example, a certificate program in urban agriculture that was launched in 2015 had 18 enrollees in its first semester, and 46 in its second semester. Interest in other certificates like rain garden design, water management, and related fields also continues to grow.

Courses like 'Introduction to Environmental Science' and 'Introduction to Urban Sustainability' that are currently offered enjoy consistently high enrollments, especially when they are cross listed at general education courses in Discovery Science.

This indicates significant growth potential for the proposed Urban Sustainability Major. Demand for Sustainable Development is on the increase nationwide and in the District of Columbia. Virtually every sector of the economy must address environmental quality and sustainability issues whether in the construction sector, the legal field, community planning, manufacturing or the service sector. This indicates tremendous career opportunities for UDC graduates who obtain a degree in the field of Urban Sustainability as proposed with the new BA degree.

It is therefore expected that the new Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability will be in high demand and will have an enrollment of 100 students within three years of its launch.

7. Effect on Student Development/Employment/Program Effectiveness

The University of the District of Columbia will benefit from the proposed Meta-Major in two ways: (1) the proposed degree will improve UDC graduation rates by allowing more students who are currently enrolled at UDC to complete a bachelors degree within the four-year or six-year timeframe.(2) the proposed degree has tremendous growth potential and is expected to increase student enrollment at the undergraduate level by attracting new student to UDC.

The proposed degree also has a logical feeder program in the non-degree bearing workforce development programs that are offered through the land-grant centers in CAUSES. Feeder programs for the degree in Urban Sustainability are the low impact development certificate, the urban agriculture certificate and the lead abatement certificate.

8. Adequacy and Appropriateness of Current Faculty/Support Staff

The proposed major will utilize only existing courses that are currently taught by tenured faculty members, qualified landgrant staff and adjunct faculty members. CAUSES has a sufficient number of qualified instructors that have the skills, expertise, experience and educational credentials to teach within the proposed Meta-Major.

The Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability will also provide a seamless transition to the new environmental studies major that is expected to be implemented by 2017 as outlined in the academic goals of the University's Strategic Plan, Vision 2020.

9. Adequacy of Current Facilities

Current facilities, including classroom and laboratory space are adequate and will accommodate the proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability. There are no additional space requirements associated with the full implementation of the proposed major. It is expected that the new Urban Sustainability Major will require a modest amount of supplies and some transportation needs associated with fieldwork in some of the laboratory sections of the program. These anticipated expenses are in line with ordinary expense associated with operating an academic unit in CAUSES and are no different that the expenses associated with the current course offerings on which the proposed Meta-Major will draw. .

10. Estimated Costs/Funding Requirements

There are no new/additional costs or funding requirements.

11. Additional Needs

There are none. The proposed major in Urban Sustainability will not require any additional courses that are not already offered in CAUSES. The proposed degree will draw exclusively on existing courses from architecture, environmental science, health education, and nutrition and dietetics as outlined in table 2 below.

Operationally, the proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability will be housed in the Department of Architecture and Urban Sustainability in CAUSES.

12. Proposed date of Implementation of Modified Curriculum

We had proposed to launch the BA in Urban Sustainability in the fall semester of 2015. However, due to reasons out of our control, this proved too ambitious of a timeline. We now anticipate a launch of the new degree in the fall of 2016.

D. Conclusion

The proposed Meta-Majors in Urban Sustainability will offer UDC students an important option among the four-year degree offerings of the University. The proposed Urban Sustainability degree will (1) improve UDC graduation rates by allowing more students who are currently enrolled at UDC to complete a bachelors degree within the four-year or six-year timeframe; (2) the proposed Urban Sustainability degrees will add career preparation in a high-demand field that constitutes a growth area in the DC metro region and across the nation and the world; and (3) the proposed Meta-Major in Urban Sustainability is expected to offer tremendous opportunities for enrollment growth at the undergraduate level by attracting new student to UDC.

The proposed BA degree in Urban Sustainability a logical feeder in the form of non-degree bearing workforce development programs offered through the landgrant centers for Urban Agriculture, Sustainable Development and the Architectural Research Institute in CAUSES.

The proposed Urban Sustainability Meta-Major will be especially beneficial for the transfer student population that UDC attracts. This student population brings to UDC a number of transfer credits from previous efforts

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Kliman, PhD. AIA

Table 2: Course of Study

BA in Urban Sustainability - Program of Study

1st Semester

Foundation Writing I*	IGED 110	3 credits
Foundation Quantitative Reasoning*	IGED 120	3 credits
Foundation Oral Communications	IGED 130	3 credits

2nd Semester

Foundation Writing II	IGED 111	3 credits
Discovery Quantitative Reasoning**	IGED 220	3 credits

3rd Semester

Foundation Ethics	IGED 140	3 credits
Discovery Technology	IGED 250	3 credits
Discovery Writing	IGED 210	3 credits

4th Semester

Discovery Science	IGED 260	4 credits
Discovery Diversity	IGED 270	3 credits

5th Semester

Discovery Civics	IGED 280	3 credits
Writing Intensive Course in College	Upon completion of Discovery Writing	

7th – 8th Semester

Frontier Capstone I & II	IGED 391/392	3 credits
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Total Credit Hours Gen Ed

37

1st & 2nd semester (chose 4 or 5 courses)

Intro to History/Philosophy of Health Phys.	HLTH104	3
Intro to Environmental Science Lec & Lab	ENSC-145 & 146	4
WORLD PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY	GEOG-104	3
Introduction to College Physics Lec & Lab	PHYS 101 & 103	4
Basic Design & Communication I	ARCP-101	3
Basic Design & Communication II	ARCP-102	3
Intro to Computer Technology I	ARCP-105	3
Intro to Computer Technology II	ARCP-106	3
Pre Calculus With Trigonometry I	MATH-113	3

Pre Calculus With Trigonometry II	MATH-114	3
Materials & Methods of Construction I	ARCP-114	3
Materials & Methods of Construction II	ARCP-116	3
Introduction to Nutrition Lec & Lab	FDSC104 & 106	4
Intermediate Algebra I	MATH-105	3
Total Credit Hours 1st Year		15
3rd & 4th semester (chose 4 or 5 courses)		
Environmental Studies and Sustainability	ENSC 225	3
Water Technology Lecture & Lab	ENSC 221	4
General Ecology Lecture & Lab	ENSC 250 & 251	4
Built Environment	ARCP-256	3
Statics & Structural Design	ARCP-231	3
Advanced Computer Simulations	ARCP-241	3
Environmental Systems I	ARCP-244	3
Environmental Systems II	ARCP-246	3
Total Credit Hours 2nd Year		15
5th & 6th semester (chose 6 or 7 courses)		
Sustainable Agriculture Lec & Lab	ENSC-352/353	4
Urban Policy & Economy	URST-335	3
Hydrology & Hydrolics Lec & Lab	CVEN-325 & 327	4
HISTORY & THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE I	ARCP-321	3
HISTORY & THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE II	ARCP-322	3
THEORY OF STRUCTURES	ARCP-331	3
Urban Sustainability	ENSC-357	3
Environmental Health Lec&Lab	ENSC-450 & 451	4
Business Ethics	BGMT-319	3
Total Credit Hours 3rd Year		24
7th & 8th semester (chose 8 or 9 courses)		
Air Pollution and Climate	ENSC 452/453	3
Thermodynamics and Economics	ENSC 445	3
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS & PRACTICE	ARCP-411	3
PRESERVATION REHABILITATION TECHNIQUES I	ARCP-412	3
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS & PRACTICE II	ARCP-414	3
DESIGN OF CONCRETE STRUCTURES	ARCP-332	3
Special Topics in Computer Science	CSCI-490	3
Urban Environment & Information Systems	GEOG-475	3
Hydrodynamics & Water Quality	ENSC-459	3
Research Methods	ENSC-456	3
Advanced GIS	GEOG-470	3

Urban Policy Analysis	URST-405	3
Climate Change & Carbon Analysis	ENSC-460	3
Environmental Policy	ENSC-461	3
Environmental Field Problems	ENSC-448	3
Total Credit Hours 4th Year		26
Total Credit Hours		120