CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-001-267

Move Minor in Regenerative Studies from Lyle Center for Sustainability and Regenerative Studies to the Urban and Regional Planning Department

Academic Programs Committee – Date: 08/26/2026

Executive Committee – Date Received and Forwarded: 10/07/2026

Academic Senate – Date: 10/14/2026

First Reading

Date: 11/04/2026 Second Reading

BACKGROUND:

This referral requests moving the Regenerative Studies (RS) Minor from the Lyle Center for Sustainability and Regenerative Studies to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (URP), including the administrative responsibilities associated with the minor and its curriculum. The proposed implementation is Fall 2028.

The proposal states that placing the minor within an academic department will strengthen curricular management, student advising, administrative support, and long-term program development. The Lyle Center will continue to serve as a living laboratory supporting interdisciplinary regenerative design and sustainability education.

URP and Regenerative Studies share sustainability as a common disciplinary foundation while maintaining distinct academic identities. The proposal anticipates curricular and research collaboration between the programs, including greater scheduling flexibility through related URP and RS courses. The proposal also indicates that the move is expected to have minimal impact on URP accreditation and existing curricula. The College of Environmental Design will work with the department to address the additional advising responsibilities associated with the minor.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Consultation included the Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Environmental Design, the Department Chair of Urban and Regional Planning, the Director of the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies, and tenure-track faculty affiliated with the Regenerative Studies Minor.

The Department of Urban Planning voted to support the proposal. There is currently a search for a coordinator for the minor and master's programs, a position that is critical for ensuring a balanced workload for the URP faculty advisors and department chair. Some faculty expressed uncertainty about whether their interdisciplinary courses would still be offered. Dean Akers affirmed that current courses in Regenerative Studies would continue to be offered, and that once the coordinator is on-boarded this will be communicated more clearly with the Regenerative Studies faculty.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee reviewed the proposal and supported moving the Regenerative Studies Minor to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Housing the minor within an academic department provides a clearer administrative and academic structure for advising, curriculum oversight, and long-term program development while preserving the interdisciplinary identity of Regenerative Studies and the role of the Lyle Center.

The Committee also notes the potential for greater curricular coordination and scholarly collaboration between URP and Regenerative Studies. The proposal identifies the additional advising workload as the principal anticipated impact and states that the College of Environmental Design will work with URP to provide necessary resources for advising support.

Second Reading Update:

As per department request and in consultation with OAP, the implementation semester has been updated to Spring 2027.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of moving the Regenerative Studies Minor from the Lyle Center for Sustainability and Regenerative Studies to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.