CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-002-267

Move M.S. in Regenerative Studies from the 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 Master of Science in Regenerative Studies (MSRS) from the Lyle Center for Sustainability and Regenerative Studies to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (URP). The program is concurrently undergoing a name change to the Master of Science in Sustainability and Regenerative Studies (MSSRS). The move would transfer administrative responsibility for the program and its courses to URP while the Lyle Center continues to serve as a living laboratory for interdisciplinary regenerative design.

The proposal identifies several benefits of locating the graduate program within an academic department, including stronger curricular and administrative management, more consistent student advising and mentoring, closer connections with faculty and peers, and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. The proposal also identifies potential efficiencies between MSSRS and the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program through shared or complementary research methods, culminating-experience preparation, and elective coursework.

The proposal states that the move is expected to have minimal impact on URP accreditation and existing curriculum. The principal anticipated challenge is additional administrative responsibility within URP; the College of Environmental Design is expected to work with the department to provide necessary support. The proposed implementation is Fall 2028.

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 MS program.

The Department of Urban Planning voted to support the proposal. There is currently a search for a coordinator for the minor and MS programs, a position that is critical for ensuring a balanced workload for the URP faculty advisors and department chair. Some faculty from other departments expressed uncertainty about whether they would still be involved in the MS program and would still be able to mentor MS students. Dean Akers affirmed that current faculty involved with the Regenerative Studies MS would be invited to continue their involvement, 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 graduate program from the Lyle Center to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Housing the program in an academic department provides a clearer structure for advising, curriculum oversight, faculty engagement, and graduate program administration while preserving the interdisciplinary identity of regenerative studies and the continuing role of the Lyle Center.

The Committee also notes the potential for curricular and scholarly collaboration between MSSRS and URP, including shared electives, complementary research and culminating-experience preparation, community-engaged work, and opportunities for interdisciplinary research. The proposal indicates that the program will continue in its present form following the organizational move, with minimal impact on URP's accredited programs.

The additional administrative responsibilities associated with the graduate program should be monitored and supported appropriately as the move is implemented.

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 M.S. in Regenerative Studies, concurrently undergoing a name change to the M.S. in Sustainability and Regenerative Studies, from the Lyle Center for Sustainability and Regenerative Studies to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.