REVISED DRAFT

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve a new Minor in Sustainable Agriculture, housed in the School of Natural Resources and Extension.

Effective: Fall 2016

Rationale: The demand for information on sustainable agriculture practices increases every year and competing Land Grant Universities throughout the nation offer degrees at multiple levels in sustainable agriculture. Creating a minor in sustainable agriculture is a necessary step to remain competitive in this field. The courses exist and offering them as part of this minor will address broad interests by students across disciplines, as well as enhance enrollments.

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Overview:

Students of sustainable agriculture learn concepts and techniques that are environmentally and socially sound as well as profitable for agriculture and food production. The proposed minor is a cohesive suite of courses that provides a foundation in the emerging concepts and practices of soil, plant and animal management using a comprehensive, sustainable approach.

The courses in this minor focus on agroecology and the interactions of natural and agricultural ecosystems for a comprehensive sustainable approach. Traditional and alternative production systems will be examined to support healthy environments, cultures and economies, promoting food security and community structure. The sustainable agriculture concepts and principles will also be related to current issues such as population growth, changing climate, social structures and use of resources. The proposed courses already exist and currently are not running at capacity so there is no anticipated negative impact on budget, facilities/space or faculty.

Proposed Minor Requirements:

Sustainable Agriculture

The minor in Sustainable Agriculture is based on social, economic and environmental aspects of agriculture and food production. The curriculum supports a basic understanding of sustainability science in global and US. agriculture,