



MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: T. Chris Riley-Tillman, Provost and Executive Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Chris Riley-Tillman".

SUBJECT: Proposal to Create MS in Sustainable Aviation Fuels

DATE: March 11, 2025

The Provost's Office and its internal review committee have reviewed the attached proposal from the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences to create a Master of Science (MS) in Sustainable Aviation Fuels on WSU Global.

This proposed online degree addresses a critical need for specialized expertise in a rapidly evolving field. With increasing industry demand, diverse career opportunities, strong student interest, and the potential for significant global and local impact, the program is well-positioned to attract a broad range of students. WSU is a recognized leader in sustainable aviation fuel research, with advanced studies, strong industry partnerships, expert faculty, and real-world contributions to the field. As the first online master's program of its kind, it offers a unique opportunity for students seeking to enter the sustainable aviation fuel industry while studying with world-class faculty.

The Provost's Office and its internal review committee have carefully reviewed the proposal, and the following feedback was conveyed.

- Enrollment forecasting may be challenging. The proposal relies heavily on international partnerships, a relatively new approach for sustaining a self-funded graduate program at WSU. Additionally, current graduate enrollment trends do not align with the optimistic projections outlined in the proposal.

We judge the proposal ready for the Senate review process.