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Office of the President
March 27, 2012

Members, Board of Trustees:

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of the Institute for Sustainable Manufacturing in the College of Engineering, effective April 1, 2012.

Background: The Institute for Sustainable Manufacturing (ISM) will serve as a leading international organization committed to the development and deployment of sustainable manufacturing technologies for products, processes and systems for significantly enhancing productivity, efficiency and quality through its highly effective research and outreach aimed at developing new technology for next generation manufacturing.

The ISM, a multidisciplinary research institute, will actively pursue academic research (basic and applied) with the goal of producing new and innovative manufacturing technologies at product, process and systems levels, engaging in technology transfer/deployment and industry outreach for effective dissemination of the new knowledge generated, and coordinate with relevant educational programs offered by the college and individual departments.

The ISM will be the only university-based institute worldwide to focus on sustainability from a manufacturing perspective. Because it will serve as a model for how cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research can be brought to bear successfully on urgent 21st century problems, the ISM will help bring talented and adventurous students and faculty with relevant and unique expertise to the University and raise our profile for innovative approaches to R&D and technology transfer. Bringing faculty together from a number of different colleges, departments and centers will create synergies that enable more ambitious and effective research projects in sustainable manufacturing and the successful pursuit of large-scale cross disciplinary funding.

The proposal has been reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council. The University Senate approved the proposal based upon academic merits, and endorsed the establishment of the Institute based upon non-academic merits. The provost of the University supports the establishment of the Institute.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____