

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) IN
GLOBAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**

PREPARED BY: JULIE CARNAHAN

I. SUMMARY

The University of Colorado Denver (UC Denver) has submitted a proposal for a Master of Science in Global Energy Management to be offered at the University of Colorado Denver Business School. The Global Energy Management (GEM) Program is a joint effort between the UC Denver Business School and energy industry leaders to support management succession for the energy industry. The program is designed as a 36-semester credit hour, 18 month cohort-based program offered through Extended Studies.

The structure of the program will allow students to work full time while attending classes, combining classroom and online educational instruction. GEM will link students, professors, and energy professionals worldwide with streaming video, video conferencing, and virtual classrooms. The combination of classroom and online delivery differentiates this program from other energy programs. The degree program is the only Master of Science Degree in Global Energy Management.

The CU-Denver Provost, Business School Dean, Graduate Council, and cognizant faculty have endorsed the program. CU-Denver further assures DHE that the M.S. in Global Energy management is comparable in quality of academic standards to other CU-Denver masters degree programs.

The Board of Regents for the University of Colorado System approved the Master of Science degree in Global Energy Management on October 7, 2008.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from the University of Colorado Denver proposal for the Master of Science Degree in Global Energy Management.

The Global Energy Management Program is collaboration with industry leaders to fill a void of individuals prepared to take on senior management positions in the energy industry. The program will focus on energy leadership education and the curriculum will include customized courses tailored to the energy industry.

The GEM program will be housed in the Business School at UC Denver and will use a combination of both academically qualified faculty from accredited universities with

recognized energy degree programs and professionally qualified faculty who are experts in the energy industry.

Upon approval of the GEM program, UC Denver plans to matriculate the first cohort of students in January 2009. Recruitment of students will be from companies in the energy industry and among individuals who intend to move into managerial positions within the industry.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

The Global Energy Management Program supports the role and mission of the University of Colorado Denver and the Business School. The statutory mission of the Downtown Campus of the University of Colorado provides that, "The Denver campus of the University of Colorado shall be an urban comprehensive and undergraduate research university with selective admission standards. The Denver Campus shall offer baccalaureate, masters, and a limited number of doctoral degree programs, emphasizing those that serve the needs of the Denver metropolitan area. The Denver campus has statewide authority to offer graduate programs in public administration and exclusive authority in architecture and planning."

EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR THE PROGRAM

Denver is a major energy hub for the United States and Canada and its role will only continue to grow. The GEM program was conceptualized at the request of EnCana Oil & Gas (USA), Inc, whose U.S. headquarters are in downtown Denver. The idea rapidly gained momentum as other energy companies with offices in Denver and elsewhere became aware of the discussions. A GEM advisory board was organized to plan and assist in fundraising for this proposed program. To date, the companies have contributed \$320,000 to a fund held by the CU-Foundation as "Start-Up" funding for the program.

EVIDENCE OF STUDENT DEMAND

Industry leaders have expressed an urgent need for qualified personnel to fill upper management positions. Present and future employees seeking a career in management in the energy industry are the program's target market.

Projections for enrollment are based on information from the energy industry and the current rate of inquiries about the program from individuals not involved in the development of the program. As of June 1, 2008 the GEM Program has received 42 inquiries, with 17 of the persons expressing a strong interest in applying to the program once it is approved. Inquiries have come from throughout the United States as well as from international locations.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

The GEM program proposal includes assurances from The CU-Denver Provost, Dean of the Business School, and Dean of the Graduate School on the substantial equivalency of the academic program quality, quality of faculty, admissions policy, and academic standards to comparable programs at the University of Colorado Business School; and affirming that appropriate consultation on these matters has occurred with cognizant faculty at CU-Denver.

Department staff conclude the program meets all performance measures set forth by the state as outlined in C.R.S. 23-5-129(6) (b).

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the Master of Science degree in Global Energy Management to be offered by the University of Colorado Denver.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-5-129(6)(b)

VI. ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

The program proposal materials are attached.