

TOPIC: CSU-GLOBAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

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I. SUMMARY

The CSU extended studies unit submitted three degree program proposals in October 2007. Department staff approved the programs under the impression that they would function under the auspices of CSU-Ft. Collins. Subsequently, staff learned that the extended studies submissions were made on behalf of what is now being called the CSU-Global Campus. This agenda item reviews the degree program approval process and proposes action to conform the degree programs at CSU-Global with Commission policy.

II. BACKGROUND

“On August 24, 2007 The Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System approved the creation of Colorado State University- Global Campus. The Board also authorized the Chancellor and CFO of the system to work with staff to identify a structure and specific methods of implementing Colorado State University-Global Campus, including any appropriate legislation, accreditation or other steps necessary or appropriate to launch a high quality, distance education entity in accordance with the description and business plan approved by the Board”.¹

“The Board further moved that Colorado State-University shall initially offer Bachelor of Science degree-completion programs in Leadership and Organizational Studies and Public Management; Masters in Science degree programs in Education and Organizational Leadership; and Certificate degree programs within each of these program areas. Colorado State University-Global Campus shall develop and deliver additional degree programs that are career relevant and tailored to existing and emerging industry and occupational trends on a state and national level”.²

In October 2007, the Director of Extended Studies at CSU submitted a request to the Department of Higher Education for approval of three new degree programs for CSU-Colorado (now “CSU-Global”): a Master of Science in Education: Instructional Development and Online Learning in Higher Education; a Bachelor of Science in Public Management; and a Bachelor of Science in Leadership and Organizational Studies.

Department of Higher Education staff approved all three programs as submitted from CSU’s extended studies unit. After that initial approval, it became clear to DHE that CSU-Global intended to function as an independent entity and not under the

¹ Board of Governors of the Colorado State University, Matters for Action, May 7, 2008

² Board of Governors of the Colorado State University, Matters for Action, May 7, 2008

organizational structure of either CSU or CSU-Pueblo. However, only CSU and CSU-Pueblo are institutions with statutory standing, and the Department and CCHE have no alternative but to rely on one of them to confirm the status and standards of the programs submitted in the name of CSU-Global.

In order not to impede the start-up activities of CSU-Global, but given the need to regularize the needed approvals for CSU-G's degree programs, DHE staff requests that the Commission on Higher Education approve the degree programs under the applicable authority of CSU or CSU-Pueblo, but with Commission approval conditioned on assurances of compliance with Commission policies regarding role and mission and related areas as set forth below.

ROLE AND MISSION

The degree programs submitted by the CSU-Global (and under the previous name CSU-Colorado) must be consistent with the role and mission of an established institution of higher education. After various interactions with CSU-G, department staff finds it appropriate to assess CSU-Global's undergraduate degree programs as if they were part of CSU-Pueblo extended studies and its graduate degree programs as if they were part of CSU extended studies. The role and mission of Colorado State University and Colorado State University-Pueblo are as follows:

Colorado State University shall be a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admission standards offering a comprehensive array of baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degree program. Consistent with the tradition of land grant universities, Colorado state university has exclusive authority to offer graduate and undergraduate programs in agriculture, forestry, natural resources, and veterinary medicine. C.R.S. 23-31-101

Colorado State University – Pueblo shall be a regional, comprehensive university, with moderately selective admissions standards. The university shall offer a broad array of baccalaureate programs with a strong professional focus and a firm grounding in liberal arts and sciences. C.R.S. 23-31.5-101.

DHE staff requests that the Commission allow CSU-Global to operate these degree programs under the auspices of the two different sponsoring institutions pending its submission of authoritative assurances indicated below and of a statement of the authority for each degree program.

QUALITY OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The proposed degree programs offered by CSU-Global require a statement of assurance from the appropriate academic officer(s) at the applicable sponsoring institution that the quality of instruction is consistently high and aligned with role and mission.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

The proposed degree programs offered by CSU-Global require a statement of assurance from the appropriate officer(s) at the applicable sponsoring institution that students enrolled in the programs meet the same requirements for admission that apply generally to students at the sponsoring institution.

QUALITY OF FACULTY

The proposed degree programs offered by CSU-Global require a statement of assurance from the appropriate academic officer(s) at the applicable sponsoring institutions that instructors teaching credit bearing instruction in the programs have qualifications equivalent to those required of faculty appointed to teach the same or comparable courses of the sponsoring institution, while recognizing the specialized pedagogy required for effective online instruction.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The proposed degree programs offered by CSU-Global require a statement of assurance from the appropriate academic officer(s) at the applicable sponsoring institution that instruction offered for credit has academic requirements and standards comparable to credit-bearing courses offered at the sponsoring institutions.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff have reviewed the proposed degree programs, taking into consideration the development of operations at CSU-Global Campus, and recommend that the degree program proposals be re-submitted with the authoritative assurances described in the Background section II, above.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the Master of Science in Education: Instructional Development and Online Learning in Higher Education; a Bachelor of Science in Public Management; a Bachelor of Science in Leadership and Organizational Studies pending the resubmission of degree program proposals with the authoritative assurances described in the Background section II, above.

V. ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

The program proposal from CSU-Colorado is attached. Additional correspondence on CSU-Global degree programs and the Colorado Department of Education is on file in the office of the Chief Academic Officer.