

TOPIC: CSU-GLOBAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

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I. SUMMARY

The CSU extended studies unit submitted three degree program proposals in October 2007 on behalf of what is now called the CSU-Global campus. Since that time, the operation of CSU Global has changed in that it now seeks to function as an independent entity. However, since the CSU-Global Campus is not recognized in statute, and has no authorized role and mission, it cannot offer degree programs on its own. This agenda item reviews the degree program approval process and conforms the degree programs planned 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 under the understanding that the programs were under the administration of CSU’s extended

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

studies unit. After that initial approval, it became clear to DHE that CSU-Global was to function as an independent entity and not under the organizational structure of either CSU or CSU-Pueblo – although they are the only institutions with statutory standing. CSU-Global has a chief executive officer who does not report to an academic officer at either CSU or CSU-Pueblo. CSU-Global has asserted budgetary autonomy and is engaged in a marketing campaign representing itself as a separate campus.

In order not to impede the start-up activities of CSU-Global, but given all the apparent irregularities, DHE staff requests that the Commission on Higher Education consider approval of the degree programs under the applicable extended studies authority of CSU or CSU-Pueblo.

Commission approval of new degree programs requires that the institution show compliance with Commission policies specific to role and mission and related areas. These areas are listed below with further clarification regarding steps CSU-Global needs to take to be in compliance with policy.

ROLE AND MISSION

Since CSU-Global is not recognized in statute and has no authorized role and mission, the degree programs submitted by the CSU-Global campus (and under the previous name CSU-Colorado) must be consistent with the role and mission of either CSU or CSU-Pueblo.

Recent correspondence from CSU-Global suggests undergraduate degree programs will be under the purview of CSU-Pueblo extended studies and graduate degree programs will be under the purview 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 programs. 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. 23-55-101

In addition to the above statutory description of role and mission, Commission policy includes the following (this and subsequent citations from applicable Commission policy are set off in italics):

A statement of mission shall have been developed, formally adopted by the institution's governing body and made public, which defines the basic character of the institution including a brief description of the educational programs to be offered and their purposes, the students for which the programs are intended, the geographical area served by the institution (or the particular constituency it serves), and a description of how the institution will fit within the broader higher education community. The mission shall be appropriate to an institution of higher education and the institution must plan to award degrees.

Because the degree programs submitted by CSU-Colorado (now CSU-Global) in October 2007 were not submitted under CSU or CSU-Pueblo extended studies units, an amended proposal from CSU-Global and the sponsoring institution needs to clearly lay out which degree programs are under the purview of CSU and which are under CSU-Pueblo.

DHE staff requests that the Commission agree to the departure from existing policy and practice and allow CSU-Global to operate with degree programs under the auspices of the two different sponsoring institutions and their extended studies authority .

QUALITY OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Assurance of Academic Program Quality will fall under the purview of the Chief Academic Officer at CSU or CSU-Pueblo depending on the program offered and which institution's role and mission is more appropriate.

The Commission has the authority to create policies that ensure the quality of instruction across all programs is consistently high and aligned with institutional role and missions. (Extended studies policy Part A, C.R.S. 23-1-109 and 25-1-116.)

The proposed degree programs ostensibly offered by CSU-Global but under the auspices of CSU or CSU-Pueblo extended studies units require a statement of assurance from the appropriate academic officer at the sponsoring institution that the quality of instruction is consistently high and aligned with role and mission.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

The degree program proposals also will be reviewed for compliance with admissions policies at CSU or CSU-Pueblo.

Persons who wish to enroll in a degree or certificate program offered through any component of Statewide Extended Studies shall meet exactly the

same requirements for admission that apply to students enrolling at the sponsoring institutions main campus program (Academic Affairs Policy Section I Part F).

The proposed degree programs ostensibly offered by CSU-Global but under the auspices of CSU or CSU-Pueblo extended studies units require a statement of assurance from the appropriate academic officer at the sponsoring institution that students enrolled in the programs shall meet the same requirements for admission that apply to students at the sponsoring institution.

QUALITY OF FACULTY

The proposed degree programs will be reviewed to determine if faculty and instructors have the qualifications as faculty at CSU or CSU-Pueblo, as appropriate.

Instructors teaching credit bearing instruction offered by the extended studies unit must have qualifications equivalent to those required of regular, on-campus faculty appointed to teach the same courses in the resident program of the sponsoring institution and are subject to the same approval and evaluation processes required of resident faculty.(Extended Studies Policy 6.01)

Extended studies units must abide by their sponsoring institution's policies for hiring and evaluating faculty including but not limited to:

- *Ensuring that the approved faculty is the instructor of record*
- *Informing the institution of the use of full time resident faculty; and,*
- *Contracting with individuals for the purpose of instruction.*

The proposed degree programs ostensibly offered by CSU-Global but under the auspices of CSU or CSU-Pueblo extended studies units require a statement of assurance from the appropriate academic officers at the sponsoring institutions that instructors teaching credit bearing instruction offered by extended studies degree programs must have qualifications equivalent to those required of regular, on campus faculty appointed to teach the same courses of the sponsoring institution, are subject to the same approval and evaluation processes of resident faculty, and the same policies for hiring.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

DHE policy requires that the sponsoring academic unit sign off on academic standards of the proposed degree programs.

Extended studies units, in cooperation with the sponsoring institution's academic unit (school, college, or department) must ensure that instruction

offered for credit has comparable academic requirements and standards to main campus instruction.

Instruction offered through the extended studies unit shall have the same number of minutes of contact hours per credit as is required by the sponsoring campus. Extended studies units will comply with Principle 3.02.02 of the CCHE FTE Policies Section V Part B: Reporting Full-Time Equivalent Student Enrollment.

The proposed degree programs ostensibly offered by CSU-Global but under the auspices of CSU or CSU-Pueblo extended studies units require a statement of assurance from the appropriate academic officer at the sponsoring institution that instruction offered for credit has comparable academic requirements and standards to the main campus.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff have reviewed the proposed degree programs, taking into consideration the development of operations at CSU-Global Campus, and conclude that the degree program proposals be re-submitted clarifying that the degree programs are operating under the auspices of CSU or CSU-Pueblo. The proposals should also include a response to the all of the issues referenced in the aforementioned Background section of this agenda item.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the Master of Science in Education: Instructional Development and Online Learning in Higher Education; the Bachelor of Science in Public Management; and the Bachelor of Science in Leadership and Organizational Studies pending the resubmission of degree program proposals that demonstrate compliance with Commission policies outlined in the Background section of this agenda item.

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.