

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DEGREE PROGRAM AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY – FORT COLLINS**

**PREPARED BY: HEATHER DELANGE**

**I. SUMMARY**

This agenda item requests approval for Colorado State University to offer a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The following is summarized from Colorado State University's proposal:

The Colorado State Board of Governors has approved moving the International Studies concentration of the Liberal Arts Interdepartmental Major to a stand-alone interdisciplinary major. In 1997 the College of Liberal Arts created an International Studies concentration within the interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major. Having chosen one regional-focus track option from among four (Asian, European, Latin American, or Middle East and North African Studies), each student completes no fewer than three full years of study of a single foreign language, at least six credits of which must be at the upper division.

International Studies students leave CSU well trained for an internationally oriented life and career. It is believed that a stand-alone interdisciplinary undergraduate major in International Studies will benefit CSU in many ways, including: furthering the University's and College of Liberal Arts' strategic plans; drawing more academically gifted students; serving as an additional platform for increasing student participation in study abroad programs; and, opening career and graduate-program doors to students.

**ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT**

The Master of Occupational Therapy supports the role and mission of Colorado State University. The statutory mission states:

*There is hereby established a university at Fort Collins to be known as Colorado state university. 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. The Colorado commission on higher education,*

*in consultation with the board of governors of the Colorado state university system, shall designate those graduate level programs that are the primary responsibility of Colorado state university. Colorado state university has the responsibility to provide on a statewide basis, utilizing when possible and appropriate the faculty and facilities of other educational institutions, those graduate level programs. The commission shall include in its funding recommendations a level of general fund support for these programs. C.R.S. 23-31-101*

An International Studies major will help to ensure that Colorado State University continues to provide a comprehensive array of baccalaureate programs that reflects the real needs of its students who, upon graduation, enter the ever-more internationally oriented societies and economies of Colorado, the United States and the world.

**EVIDENCE OF NEED/DEMAND FOR THE PROGRAM:**

Students currently in the International Studies concentration have requested that it be established as an independent major to increase its visibility, both in the curriculum and on their diplomas and resumes. Students would much prefer to be International Studies majors than Liberal Arts majors, since their interests and academic work are in international fields. Currently the International Studies concentration in the Liberal Arts major enrolls 183 students. This concentration became popular with some of the most academically gifted students in the College of Liberal Arts. Many graduates of the International Studies concentration of the Liberal Arts major go on to graduate and professional programs when they complete their undergraduate degrees.

**DUPLICATION/SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE:**

The presence of an International Studies major is critical to maintaining and developing the academic programming at any campus with a comprehensive role and mission as well at institutions with less comprehensive missions. It is not surprising to find similar programs at institutions across the state. The University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Denver, and the University of Colorado Denver have similar stand-alone undergraduate majors. Despite the fact that other institutions of higher education in Colorado have International Studies majors and minors in place, this field of study has become a standard, necessary, and a critical component of the comprehensive education that any university endeavors to offer.

**RESOURCES NEEDED:**

No new facilities, equipment, or technology are required or requested for this proposal, nor are any new funds requested or suggested. The current library's

holdings relevant to International Studies are sufficient to satisfy the needs of an undergraduate major in International Studies.

**III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

Department staff have reviewed this proposed program and letters of assurances from academic administrators to ensure that the degree program meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. §23-5-129.6. The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommend that the Commission approve the Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies submitted by Colorado State University.**

**VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant statute and policy are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-5-129 (6)(b)