

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER BACHELOR OF ARTS/BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**

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**I. SUMMARY**

This agenda item requests approval for the University of Colorado Denver (UCD) to offer an undergraduate major in Public Health, comprised of both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. This major is a partnership between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Colorado School of Public Health.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The following is summarized from the University of Colorado Denver's proposal to offer a BA/BS in Public Health:

**ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT**

The statutory mission states:

*The role and mission of the several campuses of the University of Colorado shall be as follows: The Denver campus of the university of Colorado shall be an urban comprehensive undergraduate and graduate 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. C.R.S. 23-20-101(1)(b).*

The proposed Bachelor of Arts/Science in Public Health is fully consistent with the role and mission of the University of Colorado Denver, whose goal is to educate students to serve the needs of the Denver metropolitan area and the state of Colorado. A Public Health major in Colorado's principal urban public university will fulfill the growing needs of the city for health professionals.

**EVIDENCE OF NEED/DEMAND**

No public or private university in Colorado offers an undergraduate degree in Public Health. The closest institutions offering this degree to the west are in California and Washington and the closest to the east are in Iowa and Louisiana.

To assess student demand, the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences surveyed freshmen students in the Fall of 2006. The Department obtained a random list of 100

freshmen students enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UC Denver. Of those surveyed, 42% indicated an interest in declaring a major in the field of public health. It should be noted that this survey did not capture students who would attend UC Denver if the major were already offered. Based on the survey results and potential attraction of students to the institution with the addition of this program, public health could become the largest major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

#### **RESOURCES REQUIRED**

Public health sections will be taught by a team of two faculty members, one from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and one from the School of Public Health. The team-teaching strategy ensures that the public health classes will be taught to the standards of each school or college. These sections will require additional faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, payments to the School of Public Health for team teaching obligations, and teaching assistants for small section recitations. In the first year, the college will budget one new faculty member to help manage the program (50% of time) and provide instruction for courses (50% of time). Another full time faculty member is needed in year five. The impact of students on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will require one faculty in year 2 and an additional faculty plus a senior instructor in year 3. At full enrollment, the program will require five tenure track faculty and three senior instructors for offering core curriculum in the college.

#### **III. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW**

The Department staff has reviewed this proposed program to ensure that the degree program meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. §23-5-129(6)(b). The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Department staff recommends that the Commission approve the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health submitted by the University of Colorado Denver.**

#### **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)