TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN

ANESTHESIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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## I. <u>SUMMARY</u>

This consent item recommends approval for the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (UCDAMC) to offer a Master of Science in Anesthesiology.

## II. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

The following is summarized from UCDAMC's proposal:

The proposed MS in Anesthesiology will provide a masters degree in anesthesiology to students who are seeking to join the workforce as trained anesthesiologist assistants (AA) directly after graduation. Primarily faculty in the Department of Anesthesiology in the School of Medicine will teach the curriculum. The curriculum was developed by refining current experiences of existing AA programs, by fulfilling the requirements for accreditation of the program by the professional accrediting agency, the Commission for the Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP). Anesthesiologist Assistants are trained in a model similar to Physician Assistants; matriculants have completed an undergraduate degree with all of the necessary science prerequisites. The program will consist of basic medical science education with specialized didactic and clinical instruction in the field of anesthesiology.

### ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree program proposal supports the role and mission of the University of Colorado Denver. The statutory mission states:

The Denver campus of the university of Colorado shall be an urban comprehensive undergraduate and graduate research university with selective admission standards. The Denver campus shall offer baccalaureate, master's, 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).

Additionally, the CU-Denver Health Sciences Center (Anschutz Medical Campus) statutory role and mission is as follows:

The health sciences center campus of the university of Colorado shall offer specialized baccalaureate, first-professional, master's, and doctoral degree programs in health-related disciplines and professions. It shall be affiliated with the university of Colorado hospital and other health care facilities that offer settings for education, clinical practice, and basic and applied research. It shall have exclusive authority in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and physical therapy.

### EVIDENCE OF NEED

Currently there are nine universities in the United States that offer programs that award a Masters degree, in preparation for a career as an anesthesiologist assistant. These programs experience a very high student demand, and the ration of applications to the number of positions available is typically 5:1 or higher.

#### **DUPLICATION**

This degree is not offered in Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Region, or the Western United States. The closest program of its kind is at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

# III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129 (6) (b), department staff finds that UCDAMC's proposed Master of Science in Anesthesiology is consistent with its statutory role and mission.

## IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Master of Science in Anesthesiology proposed by the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus.

## V. <u>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</u>

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs office and are available upon request.

## **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**