

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN JEWISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends approval of the University of Colorado Boulder's (UCB) proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Jewish Studies.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from UCB's proposal:

The Program in Jewish Studies, an existing interdisciplinary unit of the College of Arts and Sciences at UCB, proposes to create a BA degree in Jewish Studies as well as minors in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Studies, modeled on already existing minors in Germanic and Russian Studies. The degree would be drawn from courses offered by the core faculty in Jewish Studies as well as more than one dozen faculty teaching courses that are already part of the Jewish Studies curriculum that currently leads to the certificate in Jewish Studies. The primary goal of the major is to provide students with the highest level of liberal arts training, experience in a global international context, as well as specific applied skills and knowledge related to Jewish Studies. The major is designed to meet these goals while giving students a variety of paths by which to achieve those goals.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports the role and mission of UCB. The statutory mission states:

The Boulder campus of the university of Colorado shall be a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admission standards. The Boulder campus of the university of Colorado shall offer a comprehensive array of undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs. The Boulder campus of the university of Colorado has exclusive authority to offer graduate programs in law. The Colorado commission on higher education, in consultation with the board of regents, shall designate those graduate level programs that are the primary responsibility of the Boulder campus of the university of Colorado. The 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. 23-20-101(a)

EVIDENCE OF DEMAND

Student demand for the major has been expressed in the following ways:

- Large increase in the number of certificate students with the incorporation of the program and the hiring of a new director from 15 students in June 2008 to 62 students in June 2010. Many students have expressed interest in a major in Jewish Studies.
- High enrollments in all level Jewish Studies courses.
- Rapid increase in the Hebrew program. It was once a one-year program to now a three-year program.
- The degree meets the needs of the growing Jewish community living in Boulder as well as meets the needs of students interested in globalization, multiculturalism, religion, and society.
- The courses are offered throughout the day, including evening courses and once a week seminars, which help meet the need of working students.
- The heavy emphasis on globalization and multiculturalism has attracted a large number of underrepresented groups.

DUPLICATION

There are no other degree granting Jewish Studies programs in Colorado or the Rocky Mountain region.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 23-5-129 (6)(b), department staff finds that UCB's proposed Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies is consistent with UCB's role and mission.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the University of Colorado Boulder's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-5-129

(6) While operating pursuant to a performance contract negotiated pursuant to this section, the governing board of a state institution of higher education:

(b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher education to create modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.