TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER AN INTERNATIONAL BACHELOR

OF ARTS (IBA) DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF

COLORADO BOULDER

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I. <u>SUMMARY</u>

This consent item recommends approval of the University of Colorado Boulder's (UCB) proposal to offer an International Bachelor of Arts degree.

II. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

The following is summarized from UCB's proposal:

The University of Colorado Boulder has been working on a joint pilot program with the University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia and Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland to develop a unique degree – an International Bachelor's degree generated and endorsed by all three universities. This effort recognizes the everincreasing global perspective required by UCB's students, the value of international experiences, and that many areas of science can be approached from a global perspective. Students may earn this degree by following any one of UCB's several established science oriented majors including anthropology, astrophysical and planetary sciences, ecology and evolutionary biology, environmental studies, chemistry and biochemistry, geography, geological sciences, integrative physiology, molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, and physics depending on their interests and career goals. In order to earn the International degree, students following a particular major must complete all the current UCB requirements for the major in addition to at least one required full-time semester experiential, customized, international learning experience at one or both institutions beyond their home institution.

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

Business, education, and health professions, just as examples, are rapidly expanding their perspectives from a local, regional or national framework into an international framework. Much of science operates internationally and globally. Genetically modified crop utilization strategies and the legal issues attached thereto provide one example of where an international perspective is needed. In the U.S., genetically modified crops constitute the rule for some species and in some areas. In Ireland, such crops are entirely banned although the European Union is actively considering modifications. Australia currently represents an intermediate outlook with respect to such crop plants. The U.S. point of view tends to see those genetically modified organisms as a great step forward for agriculture whereas many African countries see them as a huge threat to their societies and economic status. As you can see, the evidence of a global perspective in a particular area is evident.

DUPLICATION

This undergraduate degree program will be unique and distinctive and there is no other degree program similar offered in Colorado.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 23-5-129 (6)(b), department staff finds that UCB's proposed International Bachelor of Arts degree 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 an International Bachelor of Arts degree.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- (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.