

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GERMAN 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 Doctor of Philosophy in German Studies.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from UCB's proposal:

This degree is designed to be a new kind of humanities doctorate for the twenty-first century. It will provide doctoral students with an opportunity to use the Department's existing resources and undertake a new kind of German PhD, one that will allow students to prepare themselves for academic careers, and also enable them to pursue work in global business, in the arts, and in diplomacy.

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

Currently, Colorado offers no doctoral level programs in German. Many students seeking a graduate degree in German only consider applying to universities with a Ph.D. program which has been a disadvantage for the institution's M.A. in German Studies. The target market for this degree will not only be students who intend to pursue a career in academia, but students who plan to enter fields in business, government, and non-profit organizations as well. With the hands-on experience the students will receive as interns and research assistants, the interdisciplinary design of the program will allow for students to be competitive candidates in a variety of professional fields.

DUPLICATION

There are no other Ph.D. programs in German Studies or Germanic Languages and Literatures in Colorado. The only other states in the mountain and west region offering the doctorate in German are Utah and Arizona.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 23-5-129 (6)(b), department staff finds that UCB's proposed Doctor of Philosophy in German Studies 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 a Doctor of Philosophy in German 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.