TOPIC: **PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO**

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I.   <u>SUMMARY</u>

This consent item recommends approval for the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) to offer a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering.

II.   <u>BACKGROUND</u>

The following is summarized from UNC's proposal:

The goal of the Software Engineering Bachelor of Science program is to provide students with the skills necessary to succeed in the development, operation, and maintenance of software systems that will solve complex problems. The program combines practical experience with appropriate theory. The program is designed to bring a recognized disciplinary approach to the development and design of software and related information technologies.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree program proposal supports the role and mission of UNC. The statutory mission states:

There is hereby established a university at Greeley, to be known as the university of northern Colorado. The university shall be a comprehensive baccalaureate and specialized graduate research university with selective admission standards, 23-40-101 (1), C.R.S.

EVIDENCE OF NEED

Software engineering is among the top ten growth jobs between 2008 and 2018, according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2009-2010 edition. The software engineering job category is expected to grow the fastest and add the most new jobs during the decades and over all other job categories. For Colorado, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment forecasts a growth of 5,681 jobs during the 2009-2019 period for Computer Applications Software Engineers. On a yearly basis, the forecast for average annual job openings is approximately 829.

DUPLICATION

Several universities in Colorado offer programs that are relevant to the proposed program, however, none of the programs are interdisciplinary and none offer a software engineering degree.

III.   STAFF ANALYSIS

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

IV.   STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the University of Northern Colorado's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering.

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.