

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTER OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-GLOBAL CAMPUS

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I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends approval of Colorado State University-Global Campus's (CSU-Global) proposal to offer a Master's of Project Management (MPJM).

II. BACKGROUND

CSU-Global's proposal for the Master of Project Management degree is summarized as follows, as excerpted from the institution's proposal:

The Master of Project Management (MPJM) is designed to integrate the study of core business disciplines and project management knowledge with the advanced leadership and decision-making skills needed to excel in high-performing, global organizations. The program will provide students with the business and management skills to evaluate, synthesize, analyze, and apply the concepts required when leading unique projects on a multi-national scale. Project management best practices are acknowledged and applied throughout the program including the planning and execution of projects, the management of contracts and asset procurement, and the skills needed to lead complex projects and manage teams in a dynamic environment. Advanced topics include decision sciences, risk management, project control and monitoring, and financial metrics. This proposed program consists of eight (8) core courses and four (4) specialization courses (36 total semester hours of credit) required of all students within the degree plan.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports the role and mission of CSU-Global, which reads, in part:

CSU Global Campus is a baccalaureate and graduate on-line university with the mission in Colorado of offering upper division baccalaureate degree completion programs for nontraditional students in partnership with the Colorado Community College system and selected master-level graduate programs. [C.R.S. 23-31.3-101]

EVIDENCE OF DEMAND

Industry demand for the Master of Project Management degree program has been evaluated through CSU-Global's market research and through industry career growth projections. Demand projections and market research are listed below:

- Growth areas for project managers include energy and infrastructure, information technology, and healthcare (Project Management Institute, 2010);
- Project-oriented positions employ approximately 7.8 million people in the U.S. (Project Management Institute, 2006);
- Twenty percent of the world's GDP is being spent on project-based work (Project Management Institute, 2010);
- Project management professionals were identified as the single most important management job category in 2008 (Global Executive Survey, 2008);
- Up to 30% of the project management workforce will begin retiring within the next 10 years (Project Management Institute, 2010);
- The required coursework will allow graduates to teach Project Management at the undergraduate level within the public and private sector; and
- Over 61,000 PMI members plan to pursue an advanced degree by 2011; of those, 32,500 plan to earn a master's degree in project management (Mediamark, 2009).

DUPLICATION

Department staff confirms there are no Master of Project Management programs offered by Colorado public institutions, online or not.

IV. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that CSU-Global's proposed Master of Project Management (MPJM) degree is consistent with the institution's role and mission.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approval of CSU-Global's proposal to offer a Master of Project Management (MPJM) degree.

VI. 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.