

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTER OF ARTS IN DANCE EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

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I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends approval for University of Northern Colorado (UNC) to offer a Master of Arts in Dance Education.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from UNC's proposal:

The Master of Arts in Dance Education degree is designed for educators who wish to build their credentials while developing their knowledge of the field of dance education. This program combines work in dance/movement teaching methods K-12, choreography, creative dance/improvisation, popular dance forms, dance performance production, dance history, designing dance/movement assessments, research methods and the use of movement and dance to teach non-dance concepts and ideas. Educators can develop their dance/movement skills, build on their teaching strategies and develop their theoretical knowledge as it relates to teaching and learning.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports UNC's statutory role and mission, which states in part:

(2) The university of northern Colorado shall be the primary institution for undergraduate and graduate degree programs for educational personnel preparation in the state of Colorado. The university shall offer master's and doctoral programs primarily in the field of education... C.R.S. 23-40-101

EVIDENCE OF NEED

The co-professors for the proposed program have been interviewing prospective teachers and others who could be candidates. The prospective program has also been described at state-wide and national conferences where an informal poll of interest was taken. In response, many of those introduced to the concept of a low residency, intensive dance education program have expressed interest in enrolling. The proposed program would enable some physical education teachers to improve and broaden their dance class offerings

and teach dance classes based on the Colorado K12 dance standards. The proposed program would also enable dance studio teachers to become proficient in teaching a broad range of dance classes. Finally, many of the students in the prospective program would already be employed as dance or arts teachers in Colorado and across the nation but wish to expand and upgrade their dance knowledge and skills.

DUPLICATION

There are no other MA Dance Education programs in Colorado. The only other dance master's degree program in Colorado is a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Dance at the University of Colorado Boulder, which prepares students for teaching in higher education and other types of careers in dance, such as performers and/or choreographers.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-1-121, department staff finds the UNC's proposed Master of Arts in Dance Education degree meets educator preparation statutory performance measures and, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds the proposed degree is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve University of Northern Colorado's proposal to offer a Master of Arts in Dance Education.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-1-121 Commission directive - approval of educator preparation programs - review

C.R.S. §23-5-129 Governing boards - performance contract - authorization - operations