TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY-PUEBLO

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FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I. <u>SUMMARY</u>

This consent item recommends approval for Colorado State University-Pueblo (CSU-Pueblo) to offer a Master of Arts in English.

II. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

The following is summarized from CSU-Pueblo's proposal:

The [current] M.A. in English has been provided in conjunction with the program at CSU [in Ft. Collins]. This would be a new program offered solely at CSU-Pueblo. The program has exceeded expectations during its seven years of operation and shown that the CSU-Fort Collins/CSU-Pueblo partnership was effective as a means to establish a M.A. in English at CSU-Pueblo. Offering our own M.A. in English at CSU-Pueblo would be more efficient, more convenient and less expensive for students.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports CSU-Pueblo's statutory role and mission, which states in part:

There is hereby established a university at Pueblo, to be known as Colorado state university - Pueblo, which shall be a regional, comprehensive university, with moderately selective admissions standards. The university shall offer a broad array of baccalaureate programs with a strong professional focus and a firm grounding in the liberal arts and sciences. The university shall also offer a limited number of graduate programs. C.R.S. 23-31.5-101

EVIDENCE OF NEED

The strongest evidence of need for the program is the healthy enrollment (32 students are registered this semester, fall 2012) and there have been 38 graduates since 2007. In addition, many local school districts provide for additional teacher salary (based on salary step classification) for those with graduate credits and degrees and many teachers seek out content-based master's programs.

DUPLICATION

The two closest public universities, namely Adams State University and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, do not offer graduate programs in English. The only master's programs in Colorado for English are at the University of Northern Colorado, University of Colorado Denver, University of Colorado Boulder, and CSU (Fort Collins).

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that CSU-Pueblo's proposed Master of Arts in English degree is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Colorado State University-Pueblo's proposal to offer a Master of Arts in English.

V. <u>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</u>

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs Division 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.