

TOPIC: LOW DEMAND PROGRAM APPEAL

PREPARED BY: JULIE CARNAHAN

I. SUMMARY

This agenda item summarizes the status of a low-demand program that has been operating below CCHE’s minimum benchmarks for the last three years and the governing board actions regarding this program.

The Commission on Higher Education has the authority and responsibility to monitor demand for academic degree programs at Colorado public colleges and universities, pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-107, as implemented in Commission Academic Affairs Policy Section I, Part G: Policy and Procedures for the Discontinuance of Academic Degrees with Low Program Demand.

Commission policy requires that, each year, CCHE staff review degree production in all academic programs offered at public colleges and universities throughout the state. According to CCHE policy, it is intended that, in November of each year, CCHE staff will analyze institutional degree production and then notify governing boards of programs that fail to meet graduation requirements for three consecutive years.

Following identification of low demand programs, Commission staff notify the governing boards of low demand programs. The Commission expects the governing boards to discontinue degree programs that fail to meet the graduation criteria. However, each institution may exempt no more than five (5) low demand baccalaureate degree programs that are central to the institution’s role and mission or where access is not available elsewhere in the state from closure.

Four months after receiving notification of low demand programs—typically no later than March 31 of each year—governing boards shall inform the Commission of the degree programs it discontinued, the degree programs it exempted, and any appeals for extensions.

II. BACKGROUND

C.R.S. 23-1-107 authorizes the Commission on Higher Education to define criteria and ensure that governing boards discontinue those academic degree programs that do not satisfy state criteria. Moreover, C.R.S. 23-5-129 (6)(b) states that, governing boards “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." While this latter provision limits Commission authority with regard to discontinuance actions initiated by governing boards, it does not repeal Commission authorities or responsibilities found in C.R.S. 23-1-107 or Commission academic affairs policy Section I, Part G.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

According to CCHE policy, the Commission will notify the governing boards of low demand academic degree programs, that is, those that fail to meet minimum enrollment and graduation standards as specified in policy. The degree programs will consist of those degree programs that are under the governing board review policies and not included in the Commission's annual follow-up of newly approved degree programs.

The identification of low demand academic degree programs is done by compiling a three-year history of degrees conferred and identifying degree programs that fall below the following parameters (CCHE Academic Affairs policy, Section I, Part G, 4.02.01):

1. Baccalaureate degrees must graduate ten (10) students in the most recently reported year or a total of 20 students in the last three years.
2. Masters degree programs must graduate three (3) students in the most recently reported year or a total of five (5) in the past three years.
3. Doctoral degree programs must graduate at least one (1) student in the most recently reported year or a total of three (3) students in the last three years.

The tables in Addendum A illustrate the total number of degrees awarded, by institution, program level, and program name for the past five years. The program requiring action in 2007 is one that failed to meet one of the parameters just described.

The following program requires action in 2007:

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychological Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Under CCHE policy, each governing board must act on degree programs that remain on the low-demand list for three consecutive years, voting whether to discontinue the degree programs operating below the benchmarks. The governing board shall provide the Commission a summary of its actions and the documentation that supports its actions by April 1 of each year.

Governing Boards may: (1) discontinue programs; (2) grant an exemption for up to five undergraduate programs per campus that are considered central to the campus; (3) or

adopt revisions in the program that lead to an increase in demand that acts to remove the program from consideration for discontinuance. If the board does not discontinue a low enrollment program, it submits a summary of its position to the CCHE.

Summary of Response from the Regents of the University of Colorado

The Regents of the University of Colorado, on behalf of the University of Colorado at Boulder, have filed an appeal for a one year extension for the Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychological Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Recent revisions to the Educational Psychology program have strengthened the program. As a result, two students recently graduated and two others are due to defend their dissertations in academic year 2007-2008. Nine additional students are enrolled in the program, with expected graduation dates between 2008 and 2011. These numbers are consistent with CCHE's expectation that the program graduate one student each year or three in the preceding three years, and will support a graduation rate of 1-3 students per year.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approves the Ph.D. program in Educational Psychology, for a one year extension (through Spring 2008) of exemption from low demand program closure.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-107 (2)

Attachment A

Table 1: Low Demand Programs, by Institution

Inst	CIP	Degree	Program Name	Status	Degrees Awarded In-						Action By
					2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-2005	2005-2006	
ASC	40.0501	B.A./B.S.	Chemistry	E	5	9	1	7	3	7	--
	27.0101	B.A./B.S.	Mathematics	E	2	3	4	2	7	2	--
CSM	45.0601	M.S.	Economics	L.D. 1						0	2009
CSU	01.0000	B.S.	Bio-agricultural Science	L.D. 1						0	2009
	01.0103	B.S.	Agricultural & Resource Economics	E	0	4	2	3	5	4	--
	14.1301	B.S.	Engineering Science	E	7	3	4	5	7	6	--
	51.2306	B.S.	Occupational Therapy	L.D. 1						1	2009
CSU-P	26.0403	Ph.D.	Anatomy	L.D. 1						0	2009
	31.0301	B.A.	Recreation	L.D. 1						0	2009
FLC	40.0801	B.S.	Physics	E	3	0	1	2	2	0	--
	45.0601	B.A.	Economics	E	3	5	2	5	5	7	--
	40.0801	B.S.	Physics	E	1	2	1	2	5	2	--
	50.0501	B.A.	Theatre	E	5	2	5	5	2	4	--
MSC	27.0101	B.A.	Mathematics	L.D.3	4	12	0	5	7	3	2007
	45.0101	B.A.	Social Sciences	L.D. 1						5	2009
MSCD	05.0201	B.A.	African American Studies	E*	2	1	2	3	2	2	--
	40.0401	B.S.	Meteorology	E*	4	7	5	5	7	4	--
	40.0801	B.S.	Physics	E*	3	3	0	3	5	6	--
	50.0501	B.A.	Theatre	L.D. 1				2	9	8	2009
UCB	16.0902	B.A.	Italian	E	7	4	13	5	5	2	2009
	16.1200	Ph.D.	Classics	L.D.2	2	0	0	1	0	0	2008
	40.0508	Ph.D.	Chemical Physics	L.D. 2	0	1	0	1	0	0	2008
	42.1801	Ph.D.	Educational Psychological Studies	L.D. 4	2	0	0	0	0	0	2006
UCCS	40.0801	B.S.	Physics	L.D. 1				3	10	3	2009
UCDHSC	40.0801	B.S.	Physics	E	5	2	8	2	1	5	--
	05.0203	B.A.	Mexican American Studies	E	3	1	1	2	2	2	--
WSC	40.0501	B.A.	Chemistry	E	3	3	1	4	2	5	--
	27.0101	B.A.	Mathematics	E	4	2	5	2	7	9	--
	45.0201	B.A.	Anthropology	L.D. 1	1	11	7	4	2	8	2009
	50.0901	B.A.	Music	E	4	1	5	6	4	5	--