

TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NEUROSCIENCES AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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I. SUMMARY

This item recommends approval for Colorado State University (CSU) to offer a Bachelor of Science in Neurosciences degree.

II. BACKGROUND

COMMISSION AUTHORITY

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education's role and responsibility in the review of new academic programs at institutions operating under a performance contract is defined in §23-5-129, which states that:

(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.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROGRAM

The following is summarized from CSU's proposal:

We are proposing an undergraduate major in Neuroscience with two concentrations, Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience (BCN) and Cell and Molecular Neuroscience (CMN). These two areas represent the major divisions within neuroscience, the former accommodating the interests of many psychology majors and the latter accommodating the interests of many biomedical-oriented students. However, it is our contention that the future of the discipline of neuroscience requires individuals well trained in the basics from both areas and as such we have put together a rigorous two year core curriculum along with

several upper division courses that will serve both areas, as well as some concentration specific courses. The major will serve students who wish to pursue advanced degrees, attend professional schools or be well trained for research positions.

Additional information on this proposed degree, unrelated to fit with statutory role and mission, is attached (Attachment A).

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

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

There is hereby established a university at Fort Collins to be known as Colorado state university. Colorado state university shall be a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admission standards offering a comprehensive array of baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs.... C.R.S. 23-31-101

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that CSU's proposed Bachelor of Science in Statistics degree is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The degree complies with the requirements of gtPathways.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Colorado State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Neurosciences.

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