

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision, New Program Proposals
March 4-5, 2021

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Existing policy, *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7*, provides for the addition of new degrees, programs, and majors. The policy states that the format for consideration of new programs shall be provided by the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs. Further, institutions have established processes/procedures for developing new academic programs that includes internal committee reviews and curriculum development processes. During the September 10th, 2020 meeting of the ARSA Committee, members discussed the desire to require institutions to consult other NSHE institutions when developing the same or similar programs.

Consulting other institutions during the program development process is intended to ensure that the institution developing the new degree program leverages the expertise of other NSHE institutions that have the same or similar degree programs. In the process of consulting with other NSHE institutions that have the same or similar programs, expertise may be leveraged to proactively identify challenges or obstacles that the proposed program may encounter as well as learn from their experiences in developing the program.

The Office of Academic and Student Affairs recommends revising Board policy with the requirement that when developing a new degree program an institution must consult with other NSHE institutions that have the same or similar programs.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Revise *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7* to require institutions consult with other NSHE institutions when developing new degree programs that are the same or similar to programs that exist elsewhere in the System.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

During the September 10 meeting of the ARSA Committee, members discussed the desire to require an institution to consult other NSHE institutions when developing the same or similar programs.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Not applicable. This is a revision to Board policy that does not directly impact NSHE strategic goals.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- When institutions consult each other on program development, the process promotes System-wide collaboration.
- Consultation between NSHE institutions helps avoid transfer and articulation issues.
- Leveraging the experience of another institution helps to identify potential resources and infrastructure challenges that may exist and can then be addressed during the program development process.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

The Board may maintain the current policy and not adopt the suggested new language.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office supports this recommendation.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK
Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7
Addition or Change of New Degrees, Majors, Programs
Departments, Schools or Colleges

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 7. Addition or Change of New Degrees, Majors, Programs, Departments, Schools or Colleges

1. It is the policy of the Board of Regents that before any new degree, major, program, school, college, center, institute, or other organization unit may be added, such proposal must be approved by the Board of Regents. Internal administrative changes, including but not limited to the addition or elimination of departments, do not require approval by the Board of Regents.
2. Each President is responsible for completion of institutional review procedures. Following that, proposals will be forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs in the Chancellor's Office prior to the Board of Regents' meeting to allow for review by the Academic Affairs Council, which will submit recommendations to the Chancellor for action by the Board of Regents.
3. The format for consideration of new programs shall be provided by the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs. *Program proposals for new degree programs must indicate that the proposing institution consulted NSHE institutions with the same or similar programs.*
4. An institution shall not accept or enroll students into an academic program until such program is approved by the Board of Regents pursuant to this Section.

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