

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
Academic Programs / Strategic Planning Committee  
December 6, 2007**

**SUBJECT:** Ph.D. in History at the University of South Florida

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider for Approval the Ph.D. in History at the University of South Florida  
CIP Code 54.0101

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution  
Board of Governors Regulation 8.011

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The University of South Florida's proposed doctoral degree program in History would be an interdisciplinary program, to be linked with new doctoral programs in Government and Sociology, that would be part of a new USF initiative in graduate education and research called *Sustainable Healthy Communities: A Global Challenge*. The three proposed programs would be linked through an interdisciplinary professional seminar, core electives in the three programs, and a capstone interdisciplinary seminar. In the future, links would be established with the Ph.D. programs in Anthropology and in Geography/Environmental Science and Policy.

The proposed doctoral program in History would require 58 credit hours beyond the master's. It expects to set itself apart from other doctoral programs offered in the state with its emphasis on globalization and its interdisciplinary links with other USF doctoral programs (proposed and currently offered).

This proposed program would support the University's strategic plan in becoming a nationally recognized, metropolitan-based research institution and position the University for membership in the American Association of Universities - both goals specifically mentioned in USF's current mission statement and strategic plan. If the program is approved, the recruitment process will begin immediately with a proposed implementation date of fall 2008.

**Observations and relevant page numbers in staff analysis:**

- The proposed doctoral program in History is not an emerging technology degree program as targeted in the 2005-2013 Board of Governors Strategic Plan. (Page 2)
- The program's focus on global issues would support the SUS initiative to connect

education to globalization of the economy. (Page 2)

- The proposed program would support the SUS goal of economic development for high-wage programs by Year Five if combined with the proposed Ph.D. programs in Government and Sociology. (Page 3)
- Three SUS universities offer a doctorate in History. Enrollments for fall 2006 were 60 for UF, 65 for FSU, and 21 for FIU. (Page 6)
- The proposal states that the proposed program would meet market-based demands for Florida employees. (Pages 4 and 5)
- Jobs for historians are expected to experience “slower-than-average employment growth.” (Pages 4 and 5)
- Nationally, the number of history undergraduates has increased, whereas the number of new history doctorates has decreased. (Page 5)
- Graduates would be prepared to teach history or to work in non-academic areas such as in government offices, museums, archives, or major corporations. (Page 5)
- The proposed program would be implemented based on the available resources within the Department and the College of Arts & Sciences. (Pages 7 and 8)

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** New Degree Program Staff Analysis

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Richard Stevens, Director of Academic and Student Affairs