

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
December 6, 2007

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

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider for Approval the Ph.D. in Government at the University of South Florida
CIP Code 45.1099

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 is requesting approval of a Ph.D. in Government. The program is part of a trio of proposed multi-disciplinary doctoral programs which includes a Ph.D. in History and a Ph.D. in Sociology. The programs are part of a new USF initiative in graduate education and research called *Sustainable Healthy Communities: A Global Challenge*. The programs would be linked through an interdisciplinary professional seminar, core electives, and a capstone seminar. In the future, links would be established with the Ph.D. programs in Anthropology and in Geography/Environmental Science and Policy.

The Ph.D. in Government would require 57 hours and would focus on governance and the impact of globalization processes on public policy and political communities. Students would choose courses from one of two tracks. The Public Affairs track would cover local, national, and international governing systems. The Sustainable Political Communities track would emphasize "human development in the context of a globalizing world."

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 mission statement and strategic plan. If approved, the recruitment process would begin immediately. The proposed implementation date is fall 2008.

Observations and relevant page numbers in staff analysis

- A Ph.D. in Government is not an emerging technology degree; therefore, this program does not fall within the SUS goal for access to and production of degrees. (page 2)
- The program's focus on global issues would support the SUS target of connecting education to globalization of the economy. (page 2)
- The program would support the SUS goal of economic development for high-wage/high-demand programs by Year 5 if combined with the proposed Ph.D. programs in History and Sociology. (pages 2 and 3)
- The program would support the SUS goal of building world-class academic programs and research capacity, because the program would be unique not only in Florida, but also in the United States. (page 3 and pages 5-6)
- The program would prepare students knowledgeable about global issues for state, county, and local government positions. (page 4)
- Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) lists state and local government among the 20 industries gaining the most new jobs by 2014. Although there are no direct links between AWI projections and hiring in the government sector, graduates may be prepared to fill these projected openings. (page 4-5)
- Three SUS institutions (FSU, UF, and FIU) have doctoral programs in political science which train students in particular subfields. The proposed program would train generalists in Political Science who understand the relationship between government and globalization. (pages 5 and 6)
- The program would be implemented based on available resources within the Department and the College of Arts and Sciences. (page 7)

Supporting Documentation Included: Provided with Committee Materials

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