

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
Strategic Planning and Academic and System Oversight Committee
June 18, 2009**

SUBJECT: Exception to 120 Hours to Degree for UWF Bachelor's in Music Education

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider request for the Bachelor of Music Education (CIP 13.1312) at the University of West Florida to be 134 hours to degree

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Article IX, Florida Constitution; 1007.25(8) F. S.; Regulation 6C-8.014

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Regulation 6C-8.014, approved by the Board of Governors on March 29, 2007, states that Baccalaureate degree programs are required to be no more than 120 credit hours to degree unless an exception is approved by the Board of Governors. Historically this exception has been approved for those programs that require additional coursework to meet specialized accreditation standards or pre-licensing content requirements.

In March 2009, the University of West Florida, Board of Trustees approved implementation of a Bachelor of Music Education (BME). The University is seeking approval for the BME to be 134 credit hours to degree in order to meet requirements for professional teaching certificate eligibility and accreditation. Currently, a 120 semester hour teaching track is offered under the Bachelor of Arts in Music program, but this requires graduates to seek alternative teaching certification, a process that increases their time to full certification. A recent visit from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) recommended elevating the track to a new degree so that graduates will immediately be eligible for professional teaching certification. All currently existing BME programs in the state university system are approved for 134 credit hours to degree. If approved by the Board of Governors, the exemption will be in effect when the program is implemented in Fall 2009.

Documentation Included:

Request from UWF

Facilitators/Presenters:

Governor J. Stanley Marshall
UWF Representative