

## COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, September 11, 2009

### DECISION ITEM A-3:

#### Master of Liberal Studies To Be Offered by Indiana University Northwest at Gary

#### Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve the Master of Liberal Studies to be offered by Indiana University Northwest at Gary, in accordance with the background discussion in this agenda item and the *Abstract*, August 28, 2009; and

That the Commission recommend no new state funds, in accordance with the supporting document, *New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary*, August 28, 2009.

#### Background

Indiana University currently offers the Master of Liberal Studies (M.L.S.) at four campuses (Kokomo, South Bend, Southeast, IPFW). USI also offers an M.A. in Liberal Studies. IU Kokomo is the most recent campus (August 2002) to receive authorization from the Commission for a program of this type. All other campuses received their authorizations in the 1980s and 1990s. Enrollment in the three more established IU M.L.S. programs tends to be small, ranging from 34-52 headcount and 14-15 FTE in FY2008. Between FY2004-FY2008, the five-year average of annual graduations has ranged between 4.2 and 10.4 for these three programs.

From a staff perspective, there are two key elements of the University's rationale for the program: the degree can be easily offered because it draws from existing courses and it will have significant economic outcomes for students. The first component of the rationale is readily sustained, since the curriculum is flexible in nature and can draw from a wide array of liberal arts courses. To test the second component, data were utilized from the Indiana Workforce Intelligence System (IWIS), which is a collaborative initiative of the Commission for Higher Education, the Department of Workforce Development, and the Department of Education.

IWIS data pertaining to the IU Southeast and IU South Bend M.L.S. programs were analyzed to see if the effect projected by the proposed program was in evidence for these two programs, which together had 121 graduates over the period FY1999-FY2008. These data were analyzed to see how many of the graduates remained in Indiana, remained with the same

employer, and had higher earnings after graduation. In all cases, employment and earnings data were examined for the quarter prior to graduation and the quarter after graduation.

***Remained in Indiana.*** A total of 88 of the 121 graduates (73%) had post-graduation earnings in Indiana. Data for the most recent quarter (Q4 of 2008) on all graduates indicated that 64 of the 121 graduates (53%) were still employed in Indiana. It should be noted that the IWIS data does not include information on those who are self-employed or who are employed in a bordering state, although they still live in Indiana.

***Remained with Same Employer.*** A total of 48 of the 103 students (47%) who graduated in the beginning of the second quarter of 2001, the earliest quarter for which employer data were available, were still with the same employer they had worked for prior to graduating.

***Higher Earnings.*** For the 96 graduates (79%) with any Indiana earnings, the average increase in earnings for the quarter following graduation was \$1,028.

The University concludes that the IWIS analysis generally supports the claims for the proposed program, which is premised on the assumption that graduates of the IU Northwest program will have employment experiences similar to those of IU Southeast and IU South Bend graduates.

## **Supporting Documents**

- (1) *Abstract* – Master of Liberal Studies to be offered by Indiana University Northwest at Gary, August 28, 2009
- (2) *New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary* – Master of Liberal Studies, August 28, 2009

## **Abstract**

Master of Liberal Studies  
To Be Offered by  
Indiana University at Gary

August 28, 2009

**Objectives:** To provide students with a graduate level interdisciplinary experience, promoting the campus as a well-integrated learning community.

**Clientele to be Served:** Traditional and non-traditional graduate students. The primary recruitment base will include K-12 teachers, professionals, and individuals who wish to pursue a general education beyond a Bachelor's degree.

**Curriculum:** A total of 33 semester credit hours are required to complete the program, distributed as follows:

Core Courses (12 credit hours)

- Seminar on Research Methods in Arts and Humanities (3)
- Seminar on Research Methods in Sciences (3)
- Seminar on Research Methods in Social Sciences (3)
- Introduction to the Master of Liberal Studies (3)

Electives (15-21 credit hours)

- 21 hours of electives without thesis or
- 15-18 hours of electives with 3-6 hours of thesis research

**Employment Possibilities:** The proposed program is designed to help four groups of students reach their personal and educational goals. The first includes non-traditional students who wish to continue their education but without the specific professional aspirations assumed of more traditional degrees and programs. The second and third are K-12 educators and professionals who need additional credentials/education to maintain their certification or advance their careers. The fourth are non-traditional adult learners who wish to prepare for and to pursue post-graduate education but who need additional preparation and life experiences before applying to doctoral and professional school programs.

**NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

August 28, 2009

**I. Prepared by Institution**

Institution/Location: Indiana University Northwest to be offered at Gary

Program: Master of Liberal Studies

	Year 1 FY2010	Year 2 FY2011	Year 3 FY2012	Year 4 FY2013	Year 5 FY2014
Enrollment Projections (Headcount)					
Full-Time	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Part-Time	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
Enrollment Projections (FTE)					
Full-Time	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Part-Time	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
Degree Completions Projection	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
New State Funds Requested (Actual) *	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
New State Funds Requested (Increases) *	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>

**II. Prepared by CHE**

New State Funds To Be Considered For Recommendation (Actual) *	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
New State Funds To Be Considered For Recommendation (Increases) *	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>

CHE Code: 09-04

Campus Code: 1815

County: Lake

Degree Level: 07

CIP Code: Federal – 240101; State – 240101

\* Excludes new state dollars that may be provided through enrollment change funding.