

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM

Date: September 15, 2014

Submitted by: *Tom Schmiedeler, Coordinator Kansas Studies, x1559*

SUBJECT: Creation of course IS 340 Kansas Studies

DESCRIPTION : A multidisciplinary course taught by faculty members of the Center for Kansas Studies that stresses the interrelationships among all aspects of Kansas including anthropology, archaeology, ethnicity, fine arts, geography, geology, history, literature, politics and religion.

RATIONALE: At the most elementary level, the tremendous need for knowledge about the region in which one resides and its place within the broader world provides a suitable rationale for Kansas Studies. Knowledge of the physical, cultural, economic and political characteristics of Kansas will provide an understanding of the importance of the state in the national culture, and impart an abiding appreciation of the state's diversity and unique physical and cultural attributes.

An additional rationale for the Kansas Studies course stems from the five-year, program review process for Kansas Studies completed in the fall of 2013. Review committee members believed that although the performance of the Kansas Studies unit "Meets Expectations," the number of students who minor in Kansas Studies, which directly relates to Kansas Studies faculty and curriculum, was lagging. To increase Kansas Studies minors, the committee suggested an integrative course be offered by the Center for Kansas Studies that might attract students, particularly international students, who will have the opportunity to learn about the setting for their international university experience. This course proposal, then, is a direct response to correcting the most salient deficiency cited in the review of the Kansas Studies unit.

Finally, the Kansas Studies course is being submitted as a 300-level, general education (social sciences or humanities course to be determined by the General Education committee). General education status will encourage student enrollment and because relatively few general education courses are offered at the 300 level, the course will be an opportunity for upper-level students or transfers who still need a general education course and upper-division credit hours to earn them, thereby assisting them in graduating in a timely manner.

Financial Implications: \$1,000 in annual honorarium support for guest faculty lecturers. Each lecturer will receive a \$100 honorarium. All honorariums will be underwritten through the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2015

Request for Action: *Approval by AAC/.FAC/FS/ Gen Fac, etc*

Approved by: AAC on date 9/22/14

FAC on date

Faculty Senate on date 10/06/14

Attachments Yes No