

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.12 Youngstown State University, Bachelor of Arts in Journalism

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the Youngstown State University Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Journalism is approved.

BACKGROUND

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism

Request: Youngstown State University seeks approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. The B.A. in Journalism will be offered by the Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences. The proposed degree program builds on an existing opportunity for student to pursue preparation in journalism through Individualized Curriculum Programs (ICP's) at YSU, through the journalism minor in the Department of English and through the major in professional writing and editing that has been available since 1988. The existing ICP's for journalism have become more standardized and form the basis for the proposed degree program. Formalizing the degree program will better serve the growing number of individuals interested in pursuing a journalism major and will broaden the options for students desiring a career as a professional writer, newspaper designer or editor.

Program Purpose/Mission: The proposed journalism program seeks to train students for entry-level positions in reporting, editing and newspaper design. The curriculum is a blend of courses that support this goal, such as News Reporting, Editorial and Opinion Writing, Feature Writing, Editing and Design for Newspapers. In addition, students participate in a journalism practicum in which students write for the student newspaper, as well as courses designed to enhance writing, editing and publishing skills. The proposed program will particularly prepare journalists for regional employment with local news organizations.

Enrollments: Youngstown State University currently has 54 students majoring in journalism through the Individualized Curriculum Program. It is anticipated that 11 new students will be added to the program each year (based upon enrollments for the past five years through ICP's), until the program stabilizes with approximately 100 students across all years of the program.

Curriculum: In addition to university and college requirements, students must complete 36 semester hours of additional requirements for the major for a minimum total of 124 hours.

Faculty: As a result of the faculty resources that support the existing minor, no additional resources will be immediately required for the B.A. in Journalism. Two full-time journalism faculty members and five professional writing and editing faculty who teach existing courses will support the journalism major degree.

Evidence of Need: The proposed degree program evolved from student demand as evidenced by participation in the development of Individual Curriculum Programs and the professional writing program through the English department. Kent State University and the University of Akron offer journalism programs and are approximately 45-55 miles from YSU. Youngstown State

University serves the residents of northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, and specifically those students who commute from the immediate area.

Licensure Requirements: There are no licensure or accreditation requirements for the program in Journalism. Programs may seek accreditation from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. Bowling Green State University, Kent State University, Ohio State University, and Ohio University are accredited by AEJMC (all between 1995-1998). A number of other public campuses in Ohio offer journalism programs as areas of specialization in Communications.

Resource Needs: Youngstown State University anticipates minimal resource needs to support this program in future years. No additional faculty, facilities or equipment are needed for this program. Extracurricular journalism opportunities already exist through the school newspaper, *The Jambar*. The Department of English has both a journalism lab and a professional writing and editing lab that already houses the required hardware and software for training in journalistic writing, editing and design. All courses for the proposed major are existing courses. Some new course sections may be added in future years.