

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.9 Bowling Green State University, Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies

**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 Bowling Green State University Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Africana Studies is approved.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies

**Request:** Bowling Green State University seeks approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies. The B.A. in Africana Studies will be offered by the College of Arts and Sciences and will be housed in the Department of History. The proposed interdisciplinary degree program builds on existing Africana Studies courses that have been available since 1995 as a minor within the College.

**Program Purpose/Mission:** The main objective of the Africana Studies Program will be to offer its majors comprehensive knowledge of the history, culture, literature and art of Africana peoples through classroom instruction, archival research, and study abroad. A component of the new degree program will be service learning in order to provide an opportunity to foster responsibility for citizenship, tolerance and respect for other peoples, cultures, and ideas. This new degree program will prepare future leaders and professionals to address effectively on-going social issues and public policy formation that continue to be informed by the unique social history/heritage of Africana peoples. Upon graduation, majors will be prepared for a variety of opportunities including law, education, government and policy studies, international relations, diplomatic service as well as graduate studies in the arts and humanities.

**Enrollments:** Demand for Africana Studies courses has increased since the first offerings in 1995. BGSU offers between 11 and 18 courses every semester from the existing Africana Studies minor. Bowling Green State University anticipates enrollments of both minor and major students in the program to range from 30 in the first year of the program (with 15 first year students) to a high of 140 students after five years. Institutional researchers have surveyed potential students and anticipate this level of enrollment.

**Curriculum:** Students in the proposed B.A. in Africana Studies Program will have an interdisciplinary experience of a well-rounded arts and sciences education. A range of courses are already available to students through several colleges, school, and departmental units including American Culture Studies, Art, Education, English, Ethnic Studies, Film Studies, Geography, History, Human Development and Family Studies, Kinesiology, Political Science, Popular Culture, Music, Romance Languages, Theater, and Women's Studies. The variety of faculty specialities and courses will give students opportunities to study Africana peoples from multiple disciplines. The Program anticipates that a number of students may have a double major in another complementary field, such as art, history or other humanities, social sciences, education, or business degrees.

In addition to university and college requirements, students must complete 30 semester hours of courses to be drawn from the Africana Studies core (9 hours) and interdisciplinary offerings. Majors in Africana Studies will be encouraged

to take 6 hours of non-English, European languages spoken by peoples of African descent, including French, Spanish, or Portuguese. In the future, select African indigenous languages and Ki-swahili may become available. In addition, students will be encouraged to take 3-6 hours of study abroad courses.

**Faculty:** Africana Studies courses will be taught by full-time faculty members (13 currently identified faculty) drawn from a range of departments and a select few part-time faculty members with degrees in the appropriate subject matter (for example scholar/artist in residence at BGSU). A full time Director will administer the program and serve as primary advisor to the students. As a result of the faculty resources that support the existing courses, minimal additional resources will be needed to support the B.A. in Women's Studies. Additional resources will be needed to provide for the Director and administrative space for the start-up of the program. The administrative needs will also include secretarial support and standard office support needs (computers, fax, printer, copier, file cabinets, etc.).

**Evidence of Need:**

Surveys of students indicate the need and interest in this degree program. In addition, the University of Toledo has the only other program within a 50 mile radius. There is on-going cooperation between Africana Studies at BGSU and the Africana Studies Program at the University of Toledo. The University of Toledo centers its major in Africana Studies within urban studies with a social science and computer technology focus, whereas the emphasis at Bowling Green State University's Africana Studies Program will be on the humanities and arts. The two programs are already jointly sponsoring the annual Undergraduate Student Research Colloquium and arranging for periodic meetings between the two faculty. Students from both campuses have the opportunity to share in travel seminars in Africa, arts performance, and guest speakers on each others campuses. The proposed BGSU Africana Studies Program is also distinguished from the UT program by its international component.

In addition to its relationship with the University of Toledo, BGSU also has articulation agreements with several community colleges. These will facilitate student transfers into the Africana Studies Program, especially through those articulation agreements that provide students with Associate of Arts degrees from community colleges to transfer directly into the proposed program.

**Licensure Requirements:** There are no licensure requirements associated with degrees in Africana Studies. The Africana Studies Program will support the College of Education in its efforts to certify teachers in multicultural education.

**Resource Needs:** Minimal additional resources and facilities will be required to support the program director and administrative office for the program. Resources from new enrollments in the program will support these needs.