

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS  
COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS**

**VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, June 18, 2024**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**or upon adjournment of SCOCAO**

The Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO) will meet virtually via Zoom. An in-person option will be available at the Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 530, Topeka, Kansas, 66612.

- |   |  |                         |       |
|---|--|-------------------------|-------|
| <b>I. Call to Order</b>   |  | Debbie Mercer, Chair    |       |
| A. Roll Call & Introductions  |  | Provost Mendez, K-State |       |
| B. Approve Minutes from May 15, 2024  |  |                         | p. 3  |
| <b>II. Council of Faculty Senate Presidents Update</b>  |  | Norman Phillip          |       |
| <b>III. First Reading</b>   |  |                         |       |
| BS in Cyber Systems Design & Dynamics – K-State   |  | Debbie Mercer           | p. 5  |
| <b>IV. Other Matters</b>  |  |                         |       |
| A. Request for Approval to Reorganize College of Health & Human Sciences – K-State  |  | Debbie Mercer           | p. 16 |
| B. Discuss Opportunities (new degree programs, partnerships, strategic initiatives, etc.) that Universities are Considering or Planning to Pursue in the Future |  | COCAO Members           |       |
| <b>V. Next COCAO Meeting – September Virtual Meeting</b>  |  |                         |       |
| <b>VI. Adjournment</b>  |  |                         |       |

## COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS

The Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO), established in 1969, is composed of the academic vice presidents of the state universities. The Board's Vice President for Academic Affairs serves as an ex officio member, and the member from the same institution as the chairperson of the Council of Presidents serves as chairperson of the Council of Chief Academic Officers. The chief academic officers of the University of Kansas Medical Center and Washburn University are authorized to participate as non-voting members when agenda items affecting those institutions are to be considered. The Council of Chief Academic Officers meets monthly and reports to the Council of Presidents. The Council of Chief Academic Officers works with the Board Academic Affairs Committee through the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Membership includes:

Debbie Mercer, Interim, Chair	K-State	Howard Smith	PSU
Brent Thomas	ESU	John Fritch	Washburn
Jill Arensdorf	FHSU	Shirley Lefever	WSU
Barbara Bichelmeyer	KU	Rusty Monhollon	KBOR
Robert Klein	KUMC		

### Council of Chief Academic Officers AY 2024 Meeting Schedule

<i><b>COCAO Academic Year 2023- 2024 Meeting Dates</b></i>			
<b>Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Location (virtual or in-person)</b>	<b>Institutional Materials Due</b>	<b>New Program Requests Due</b>
September 20, 2023	Virtual	August 30, 2023	July 26, 2023
November 15, 2023	Emporia State University	October 25, 2023	September 20, 2023
December 13, 2023	Virtual	November 22, 2023	October 18, 2023
January 17, 2024	Virtual	December 27, 2023	November 22, 2023
February 14, 2024	Virtual	January 24, 2024	December 20, 2023
March 20, 2024	Virtual	February 28, 2024	January 24, 2024
April 17, 2024	Fort Hays State University	March 27, 2024	February 21, 2024
May 15, 2024	Virtual	April 24, 2024	March 20, 2024
June 18, 2024	Virtual	May 29, 2024	April 24, 2024

COCAO meets at 9:00 a.m. or upon adjournment of SCOCAO unless otherwise noted.

**Council of Chief Academic Officers**  
**MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, May 15, 2024**

The May 15, 2024, Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO) meeting was called to order by Chair Debbie Mercer at 8:48 a.m. The meeting was held in person at the Board office, with a Zoom option available.

**In Attendance:**

Members:	Debbie Mercer, K-State	Howard Smith, PSU	Brent Thomas, ESU
	John Fritch, Washburn	Jill Arensdorf, FHSU	Shirley Lefever, WSU
	Barbara Bichelmeyer, KU	Robert Klein, KUMC	

**Approval of Minutes**

Howard Smith moved to approve the April 17, 2024, meeting minutes, and Jill Arensdorf seconded. The motion passed.

*Council of Faculty Senate Presidents (CoFSP) Update*

Don Von Bergen, Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, provided an update. There will be a working lunch today for the current council presidents and the incoming council presidents to assist in a smooth transition for the next year. They continue to work on the criteria for the Faculty of the Year Award, with the goal of having one set of criteria that all universities can agree on. He also announced that Norman Philipp, Pittsburg State University, will be the Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents next year.

**Second Readings**

Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the second reading for the MS in Human & Organization Performance Effectiveness at the University of Kansas. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the request, and Shirley Lefever seconded. The motion passed.

Barbara Bichelmeyer presented the second reading for the MSE in Secondary STEM Education at the University of Kansas. Shirley Lefever moved to approve the request, and Brent Thomas seconded. The motion passed.

**Other Matters**

Debbie Mercer presented a request a request from Kansas State University to move BS in Interior Design from College of Health & Human Sciences to the Department of Interior Architecture, Planning, & Design. Jill Arensdorf moved to approve the request, and Brent Thomas seconded. The motion passed.

Debbie Mercer presented a request from Kansas State University to change the Department of Accounting to the School of Accountancy within the College of Business Administration. Howard Smith moved to approve the request, and Barbra Bichelmeyer seconded. The motion passed.

Barbra Bichelmeyer presented a request from the University of Kansas for multiple name changes. These changes would not require changes to CIP codes. These changes included changing the BA & BGS in Communication Disorders to Speech-Language-Hearing, changing the BA, MA, & PhD in Spanish & Portuguese to Spanish, changing the BA in Biological Sciences to Biology, changing the BFA in Music to Theatre and Voice, and changing the Bachelor of Social Welfare, Master of Social Welfare, and PhD in Social Welfare to Social Work. Brent Thomas moved to approve these changes, and Jill Arensdorf seconded. The motion passed.

Barbara Bichelmeyer presented a final request from Kansas University to change the name of the BSB in Business Administration & Management to BSB in Management & Leadership. This request would change the CIP code to 52.0213. Shirley Lefever moved to approve the request, and Jill Arensdorf seconded. The motion passed.

**Adjournment**

The next COCAO meeting will be held virtually on June 18, 2024.

Brent Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting, and Howard Smith seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

## **Program Approval**

### **Summary**

*Universities may apply for approval of new academic programs following the guidelines in the Kansas Board of Regents Policy Manual. Kansas State University has submitted an application for approval and the proposing academic unit has responded to all of the requirements of the program approval process.*

*June 18, 2024*

### **I. General Information**

**A. Institution** Kansas State University

### **B. Program Identification**

Degree Level: Bachelor's  
Program Title: Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics  
Degree to be Offered: Bachelor of Science in Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics  
Responsible Department or Unit: College of Technology & Aviation / Department of Integrated Studies  
CIP Code: 11.0804  
Modality: Hy-Flex  
Proposed Implementation Date: August 2024

Total Number of Semester Credit Hours for the Degree: 120

**II. Clinical Sites:** Does this program require the use of Clinical Sites? NO

### **III. Justification**

Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics (CSDD) is an innovative degree program merging the realms of digital design, human-computer interaction, virtual and augmented reality, data science, and intelligent computing systems architecture. This program equips students with unique and in-demand skills to create engaging virtual environments, immersive applications, predictive data systems, cyber physical systems, and interactive media. After extensive research stemming from Kansas State University's Academic Program Review & Revitalization Process, industry partner meetings, and discussions among the faculty within the Department of Integrated Studies on the K-State Salina Campus, it was determined that the CSDD degree is an excellent option to replace the outdated Computer Systems Technology and Digital Media Technology degrees. This new degree option was developed to support advanced industry demands within the areas of Immersive Systems Design and Machine Learning. Moreover, this new degree will be a major component of the \$41 Million Kansas Center for Advanced Immersive Research for Emerging Systems (K-AIRES) currently being built on the K-State Salina Campus and will offer students industry connections with Pure Imagination Studios (see Appendix A). The new degree is unique within the region as well as the nation. Industrial demand for the skillsets developed in this new bachelor's degree has grown rapidly over the last 3 years in the region and the nation. Additionally, the employment outlook for bachelor's degree holders in relevant fields is very positive at all geographic levels.

### **IV. Program Demand: Market Analysis**

Student demand for degrees in cyber systems and machine learning related fields has grown in the region and the nation. Between 2014 and 2020, the number of regional bachelor's conferrals in machine learning-related fields grew annually at a rate of 48.7 percent, much faster than the average growth rate for all bachelor's conferrals. While the volume of conferrals has been below-average, the substantial completion growth rate indicates a trending emerging field. A review of the regional and national landscape suggests room for an additional bachelor's degree in the state of Kansas. No regional universities currently offer a bachelor's degree

in Cyber Systems Design & Dynamics.

Nationwide, few degree programs are directly relevant (in contrast to specializations or concentrations) which suggests viable conditions for a degree option in Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics. Moreover, as of 2022, no Kansas-based institution has reported any bachelor's offerings in relevant fields. The employment outlook for cyber systems and machine learning-related occupations is positive. Federal data projects a faster-than-average employment growth for software developers and other related occupations over a ten-year period in Kansas, the region, and the nation. Recently posted job listings underscore the trend in substantial labor demand, especially for professionals who are versed in the latest programming frameworks related to Immersive Systems Design and Machine Learning and Autonomous Systems.

## V. Projected Enrollment for the Initial Three Years of the Program

Year	Headcount Per Year		Sem Credit Hrs Per Year	
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Full- Time	Part- Time
Implementation	8	7	192	105
Year 2	24	12	576	180
Year 3	36	18	864	270

## VI. Employment

The employment outlook for cyber systems-related occupations is positive. Federal data projects a faster-than-average employment growth for system developers, engineers, and other related occupations over a ten-year period in Kansas, the region, and the nation (Department of Labor Statistics). However, recently posted job listings underscore the trend in substantial labor demand, especially for professionals who are versed in integrated systems design and architecture (EMSI, 2020). An understanding of cyber systems and the ability to think and work systematically when approaching industry problems, is becoming increasingly vital for employees hired in a variety of technical, engineering, science, and business positions (Werner & Pritchard, 2021). Additionally, comprehension of cyber system dynamics is frequently sought after for research and education in many different fields, as well as for analysis by large companies, governments, international agencies, and consulting companies.

## VII. Admission and Curriculum

### A. Admission Criteria

Freshmen Students:

- Admission to the university is test-optional and requires achieving EITHER:
  - A cumulative high school GPA (weighted or unweighted) of 3.25 or higher OR
  - ACT composite score of 21, or an SAT ERW+M score of 1060 or higher
- AND, if applicable, achieve a 2.0 GPA on all college credit taken in high school.

Transfer Students:

- Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 on all transfer course work by the time they start at K-State.

International Students:

- High school curriculum from an accredited secondary school.
- Minimum 2.5 GPA (Grade Point Average) on a 4.0 scale in high school coursework.

International Transfer Students:

- Completed high school degree
- 24 credit hours completed at a collegiate level
- 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale on college or university transcripts

## B. Curriculum

The Cyber Systems Design & Dynamics degree has two program options: Immersive Systems Design and Machine Learning & Autonomous Systems (MLAS). The course sequence below is for the Immersive Systems Design option. The MLAS option is included in Attachment 1.

### *Immersive Systems Design Option*

#### Year 1: Fall

SCH = Semester Credit Hours

Course #	Course Name	SCH
MATH 100	College Algebra (Gen Ed Core 030)	3
ENGL 100	Expository Writing (Gen Ed Core 010)	3
CYBR 103	Computing Principles	3
MLAS 100	Survey of Machine Learning & Autonomous Systems	3
CYBR 137	Principles of Interactive Digital Storytelling	3

#### Year 1: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
MATH 150	Plane Trigonometry	3
COMM 106	Public Speaking I (Gen Ed Core 020)	3
CYBR 163	Fundamentals of Design Thinking	3
CYBR 180	Introduction to Database Systems	3
CYBR 247	Programming I	3

#### Year 2: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
MATH 220	Analytic Geometry & Calculus I	4
PHYS 113	General Physics I (Gen Ed Core 040)	4
CYBR 210	Interactive Media Development	3
CYBR 335	Programming II	3

#### Year 2: Spring

Course #	Course Name	SCH
ENGL 200	Expository Writing II (Gen Ed Core 010)	3
	General Education Elective (Social & Behavioral Science) (050)	3
	General Education Elective (Arts & Humanities) (060)	3
CYBR 250	Hardware and Network Fundamentals	3
CYBR 280	Applied Mathematics for Cyber Systems	3

#### Year 3: Summer

Course #	Course Name	SCH
CYBR 301	Immersive Coop Studio I	3

#### Year 3: Fall

Course #	Course Name	SCH
ENGL 302	Technical Writing	3
STAT 325	Introduction to Statistics	3
	General Education Elective (Social & Behavioral Science) (050)	3
CYBR 360	Foundations of Game Engine Design & Development	3
	Immersive Systems Design Elective	3

**Year 3: Spring**

Course #	Course Name	SCH
COT 480	Professional Conduct, Ethics, and Analysis	3
	Business Elective (300 or 400 level preferred)	3
	General Education Elective (Institutional Designated) (070)	3
	Immersive Systems Design Elective	3
	Immersive Systems Design Elective	3

**Year 4: Summer**

Course #	Course Name	SCH
CYBR 401	Immersive Coop Studio II	3

**Year 4: Fall**

Course #	Course Name	SCH
CYBR 495	Immersive Cyber Systems Capstone I	3
	Science Elective	4
	Immersive Systems Design Elective	3
	Immersive Systems Design Elective	3

**Year 4: Summer**

Course #	Course Name	SCH
CYBR 497	Immersive Cyber Systems Capstone II	3
	General Education Elective (Arts & Humanities (060)	3
	General Education Elective (Institutional Designated) (070)	3
	Immersive Systems Design Elective	3

**Total Number of Semester Credit Hours..... 120**

**VIII. Core Faculty**

Note: \* Next to Faculty Name Denotes Director of the Program, if applicable

FTE: 1.0 FTE = Full-Time Equivalency Devoted to Program

Faculty Name	Rank	Highest Degree	Tenure Track Y/N	Academic Area of Specialization	FTE to Proposed Program
Michael Oetken*	Asst. Prof.	Ph.D.	Y	Immersive Systems Design	1.0
William Genereux	Prof.	Ph.D.	Tenured	Immersive Systems Design	1.0
Tim Bower	Prof.	M.S.	Tenured	Intelligent Systems Design	1.0
Annie Hoekman	Asst. Prof.	Ph.D.	N	Cyber Security	1.0
Balaji Balasubramaniam	Asst. Prof.	Ph.D.	Y	Intelligent Systems Design	1.0
Sri Pudepedi	Asst. Prof.	Ph.D.	Y	Machine Learning	1.0
New Hire	Asst. Prof	M.S.	N	Cyber Operations	1.0

Number of graduate assistants assigned to this program..... **10**



**IX. Expenditure and Funding Sources**

<b>A. EXPENDITURES</b>	First FY	Second FY	Third FY
<b>Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions</b>			
Faculty	500,000	500,000	500,000
Administrators ( <i>other than instruction time</i> )	0	0	0
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0
Support Staff for Administration ( <i>e.g., secretarial</i> )	3,150	6,300	6,300
Fringe Benefits ( <i>total for all groups</i> )	125,787	126,574	126,574
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
<b>Total Existing Personnel Costs – Reassigned or Existing</b>	628,937	632,874	632,874
<b>Personnel – New Positions</b>			
Faculty	0	0	60,000
Administrators ( <i>other than instruction time</i> )	0	0	0
Graduate Assistants	0	0	0
Support Staff for Administration ( <i>e.g., secretarial</i> )	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits ( <i>total for all groups</i> )	0	0	18,000
Other Personnel Costs	0	0	0
<b>Total Existing Personnel Costs – New Positions</b>	0	0	78,000
<b>Start-up Costs - One-Time Expenses</b>			
Library/learning resources	0	0	0
Equipment/Technology	150,000	2,500	2,500
Physical Facilities: Construction or Renovation	0	0	0
Other (Marketing)	50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>Total Start-up Costs</b>	200,000	52,500	52,500
<b>Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses</b>			
Supplies/Expenses	125	250	250
Library/learning resources	0	0	0
Equipment/Technology	2,000	2,000	2,000
Travel	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	2,125	2,250	2,250
<b>GRAND TOTAL COSTS</b>	831,062	687,624	765,624

<b>B. FUNDING SOURCES</b> ( <i>projected as appropriate</i> )	Current	First FY (New)	Second FY (New)	Third FY (New)
Tuition / State Funds		203,697	518,503	777,754
Student Fees		12,500	31,820	47,730
Other Sources (Univ/Industry/Corporate)		50,000	25,000	25,000

<b>GRAND TOTAL FUNDING</b>		266,197	575,323	850,484
<b>C. Projected Surplus/Deficit (+/-)</b> (Grand Total Funding <i>minus</i> Grand Total Costs)		-564,865	-112,301	+84,860

**X. Expenditures and Funding Sources Explanations**

**A. Expenditures**

**Personnel – Reassigned or Existing Positions:** A combined 6.0 FTE will come from faculty members as depicted in section VIII of this document.

**Personnel – New Positions:** A single faculty position at 1.0 FTE is anticipated by year 3 of the program. A varying number of adjunct instructors will be critical to the success of this program from the standpoint of content currency and relevancy and will share the teaching load and we currently estimate this need at 0.25 of an FTE per semester.

**Operating Costs – Recurring Expenses:** Limited to office costs

**B. Revenue: Funding Sources**

A combination of Tuition/State Funding + \$50,000 in annual program startup funding from central administration in Manhattan. Additionally, we expect Industry & Corporate funding streams to chip in annually to the program as well. As of 2023, we have tentative commitments from various corporate donors. Of course, our primary funding stream will be generated from student tuition.

Part time students are calculated at 15 hours annually (6 hour per semester twice per year, plus a single 3 hour course over the summer); whereas full time are estimated at 24 hours (12 hours per semester twice per year). And using a blended tuition rate of \$685.85 (Simple Average: \$421 (in-state rate) + \$949 (out-of-state rate)), we then take the total estimated credit hours for full time and part time students. We assume that more full time students, than part time students, will be enrolled in this program; additionally, we also assume more in-state students will be enrolling in this program due to the audience we will be marketing towards. As enrollment increases, while taking into account CSDD program expenditures, we estimate that we will break even in the second year.

**C. Projected Surplus/Deficit**

The campus intends to develop a digital marketing campaign for this program. We expect program enrollments to increase after the second year of the program. These early cash marketing expenditures will help us to realize the estimated ROI. Additionally, we recognize that the blended tuition rate might not be the only approximation method for forecasting ROI.

**In-and-Out-of-State Enrollment Model: Blended Tuition Rate = \$685.85 Per Credit Hour**

This model assumes an even breakdown between in-state and out-of-state tuition:

- Year 1 Estimated ROI: -\$564,864.55
- Year 2 Estimated ROI: -\$112,301.36
- Year 3 Estimated ROI: +\$84,859.96

✓ *This model is fairly realistic given our target learner audience.*

It is estimated that the program will continue to grow enrollment up to year 6, at which time enrollment is estimated to plateau around 75 full-time students and 25 part-time students. At the current tuition rate, the Year 6 ROI would be estimated at \$726,099.75

## **XI. References**

Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI). (2020). *Third Quarter 2020 Report for Aerospace Engineers*. (Provided by Kansas Department of Commerce.)

U.S. Department of Labor. (2023, September 22). See yourself in cybersecurity. U.S. Department of Labor Blog. <https://blog.dol.gov/2023/09/22/see-yourself-in-cybersecurity>

Werner, S., & Pritchard, M.J. (2021). *Aviation versus Aerospace: A Differential Analysis of Workforce Jobs via Text Mining*. International Journal of Transport and Vehicle Engineering. Vol:15, No:10.

**Machine Learning & Autonomous Systems Option****Course Sequence Roadmap****Freshman Fall Semester: 15 Credit Hours**

MATH 100 – College Algebra .....	3	(Gen Ed Core 030)
ENGL 100 – Expository Writing I .....	3	(Gen Ed Core 010)
CYBR 103 – Computing Principles .....	3	
MLAS 100 – Survey of Machine Learning & Autonomous Systems .....	3	
CYBR 137 – Principles of Interactive Digital Storytelling .....	3	

**Freshman Spring Semester: 15 Credit Hours**

MATH 150 – Plane Trigonometry .....	3	
COMM 106 – Public Speaking I .....	3	(Gen Ed Core 020)
CYBR 163 – Fundamentals of Design Thinking .....	3	
CYBR 180 – Introduction to Database Systems .....	3	
CYBR 247 – Programming I .....	3	

**Sophomore Fall Semester: 14 Credit Hours**

MATH 220 – Analytic Geometry & Calculus I .....	4	
PHYS 113 – General Physics I .....	4	(Gen Ed Core 040)
MLAS 200 – Introduction to Automata & Cybernetic Systems Theory .....	3	
CYBR 335 – Programming II .....	3	

**Sophomore Spring Semester: 15 Credit Hours**

ENGL 200 – Expository Writing II .....	3	(Gen Ed Core 010)
General Education Elective (Social & Behavioral Sciences) .....	3	(Gen Ed Core 050)
General Education Elective (Arts & Humanities) .....	3	(Gen Ed Core 060)
CYBR 250 – Hardware and Network Fundamentals .....	3	
CYBR 280 – Applied Mathematics for Cyber Systems .....	3	

**Sophomore/Junior Summer Semester: 3 Credit Hours**

MLAS 350 – Machine Learning Data Structures .....	3	
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**Junior Fall Semester: 15 Credit Hours**

ENGL 302 – Technical Writing .....	3	
STAT 325 – Introduction to Statistics .....	3	
General Education Elective (Social & Behavioral Sciences) .....	3	(Gen Ed Core 050)
ETB 310 – Applied Data Analysis & Tools .....	3	
MLAS 390 – Unsupervised Learning in Autonomous Systems .....	3	

**Junior Spring Semester: 15 Credit Hours**

COT 480 – Professional Conduct, Ethics, and Analysis .....	3	
Business Elective (300 or 400 level preferred) .....	3	
General Education Elective (Institutional Designated) .....	3	(Gen Ed Core 070)
MLAS 400 – Supervised Learning in Autonomous Systems .....	3	
MLAS 410 – Natural Language Processing .....	3	

**Junior/Senior Summer Semester: 3 Credit Hours**

STAT 705 – Regression & Analysis Variance..... 3

**Senior Fall Semester: 13 Credit Hours**

STAT 730 – Multivariate Statistical Methods..... 3

Science Elective..... 4

MLAS 412 – Deep Learning..... 3

MLAS 500 – Reinforcement Learning in Autonomous Systems ..... 3

**Senior Spring Semester: 12 Credit Hours**

General Education Elective (Arts & Humanities) ..... 3 (*Gen Ed Core 060*)

General Education Elective (Institutional Designated) ..... 3 (*Gen Ed Core 070*)

MLAS 501 – Artificial Intelligence Studio ..... 3

MLAS 502 – Autonomous Systems Senior Capstone..... 3

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 120**



October 15, 2023

Kansas State University Salina  
Degree Approval Committee  
2310 Centennial Rd,  
Salina, KS 67401

Dear Kansas State Degree Approval Committee:

Please accept this letter as Pure Imagination Studios' unwavering support of the K-AIRES Center and Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics Degree (CSDD) program as it represents a new era of innovation that will introduce countless new jobs and catapult the community to a cutting-edge position in the spatial computing industry.

Pure Imagination Studios is an award-winning independent studio that combines proprietary spatial computing technology with groundbreaking storytelling to bring the next generation of entertainment to audiences of all ages as our content and experiences have been utilized by hundreds of millions worldwide.

Throughout the next decade, the demand for content will not only continue to rise but the way it's developed, produced, and ultimately consumed will rely heavily on spatial computing and real-time technologies – therefore an entirely new workforce will be pivotal to support our film, television, interactive, experiential, and extended reality (XR) content. Kansas State is currently bringing large companies to the state of Kansas that need solutions to enhance their workforce. With the training models implemented by the K-AIRES and Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics Degree (CSDD) program, we will be able to initiate hands-on, remote training to students, new hires, and professionals alike to prepare them with career-ready knowledge and experiences.

The number of challenges we face as a community are rooted in the lack of skilled resources that can keep up with the ever-evolving advancements in storytelling technology. Therefore, Pure Imagination is deeply committed to supporting the K-AIRES Center and Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics Degree (CSDD) program as the studio and learning center will be a beacon for combining immersive technologies and an extraordinary, unparalleled hands-on training experience.

It's priceless to find a partner so equally committed and aligned not only with our vision, but our overall goals as a company, which are:

- Grow a transformational business around the future of entertainment.
- Educate and build an inclusive workforce.
- Foster development of underrepresented communities.
- Develop, patent, retain, and exploit technology and create intellectual property made from within the K-AIRES Center and Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics Degree (CSDD) program.
- Raise additional private investment to develop new ventures based on the technology created in state, fueling our continued expansion into the enterprise sectors.

Due to this perfect alignment of vision and values, Pure Imagination is committed to a future in Kansas and supporting Kansas State University Salina build the K-AIRES Center and Cyber Systems Design and

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Dynamics Degree (CSDD) program as well as expand and influence advancements made at the University and state level.

As part of the K-AIRES Center and Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics (CSDD) program, Pure Imagination will help develop a core curriculum ranging from software development, computer animation, volumetric capture, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, computer vision, and embrace virtual reality to heighten the importance of storytelling and the business side of “show business,” as well as so much more.

Additionally, given the deep interrelationship between technology and entertainment, Pure Imagination will also be able to leverage the K-AIRES Center and Cyber Systems Design and Dynamics Degree (CSDD) program’s approach to collaborate on projects directly with the CSDD students, thus leading to early access and exposure of relevant experiences, the latest tools, and current technologies valuable for employment post-graduation.

We look forward to supporting Kansas’ efforts in embracing technology and providing a path of inspiration and infrastructure for education and job placement, not only helping the state of Kansas and Kansas State University Salina recognize their long term visions but fueling our deepest inspirations for creating to begin with.

Sincerely,

Joshua Wexler  
Chief Executive of Fun  
Pure Imagination Studios, Inc.

28 May 2024

Rusty Monhollon  
Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Kansas Board of Regents  
1000 SW Jackson Street Ste 520  
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Dear Dr. Monhollon,

Kansas State University requests approval for an administrative reorganization of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Currently, the College is comprised of six academic departments and two programs, each led by a full-time head or program administrator. We propose to reorganize the college into three distinct schools:

- School of Human Sciences
- School of Health Sciences, and
- School of Consumer Sciences.

In addition, the dean's office will reorganize to support strategic initiatives and school function. This reorganization will have many benefits for students, faculty, staff, and communities across Kansas. It will also produce \$675,000 in administrative salary and benefits savings.

This reorganization is the product of almost two years of faculty, staff, and administrative strategic planning in the College of Health and Human Sciences. The College Committee on Planning surveyed faculty and staff and identified reorganizing academic units as a top priority. Alumni and external college partners were also consulted as models for the change were produced. The resulting reorganization plan thus reflects a holistic approach driven by, and inclusive of, all faculty and staff.

Benefits of the reorganization include the financial efficiencies mentioned above, but also enhanced communication and reporting throughout the college. Other benefits include increased:

- Curricular collaboration between faculty across programs
- Inter-professional practice and applied learning
- Co-investigative research and scholarship
- Engagement with Kansas communities and residents

As faculty engage in these multi-disciplinary practices, students will also benefit from clustering academic programs into schools, preparing them to better assist communities by modeling problems solving outside of disciplinary silos.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of our College of Health and Human Sciences reorganization.

Sincerely,



Jesse Perez Mendez  
Provost and Executive Vice President