

Fort Hays State University

1) Legislative Proposal: Information Assurance

Fort Hays State University will address critical Kansas needs and carry out its Board of Regents mandated mission of “the integration of computer and telecommunications with the educational environment and the work place,” by initiating a new emphasis in the Bachelors of Arts and the Bachelors of Science in Information Networking and Telecommunications and expanding its Information Assurance concentration in the Masters of Liberal Studies to provide both face-to-face and distance education.

2) Issue Background

Need

Kansas businesses, governmental units, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, public safety agencies, the state’s growing military sector, the biosciences, and even consumers are highly dependent upon secure digital networks and data storage. E-commerce and routine commercial functions such as accounting, sales, and banking are conducted electronically by businesses.

Governmental units have significant responsibilities for protecting the private data of citizens, preserving tax information, individual identification data such as driver’s licenses and social security numbers and operating in compliance with state and federal laws.

Health care providers are making substantial strides in patient care using information technology, but patient records and bioinformation have to be robustly reliable and secure. Bioinformatics and the biosciences are highly dependent upon data analysis, movement, retrieval, and protection.

Law enforcement agencies deal with a plethora of information security needs. Data on crimes, offenders, parolees, vehicles, personal identification information and biometrics are all used daily by leading law enforcement agencies in solving crimes. Law enforcement officials must also address cybercrimes – electronic thefts, child pornography, cyber stalking and cyber threats and abuse using computer forensics. Public safety agencies are digitizing information on key facilities and infrastructure, the locations of explosives and hazardous materials, and response plans. This information must be kept secure, but must also be immediately accessible.

The United States Military is becoming information driven, depending on rapid and secure dissemination of digital information. For example, in Kansas, McConnell Air Force base has become a world data and analysis center for U.S. National Guard Intelligence.

Consumers purchase goods and services on-line, bank on-line, maintain personal and financial records on computers and move this data across networks. Consumers are dependent upon businesses protecting their data in a complex and threatening environment. Businesses must provide such security in a cost effective and reliable manner.

Today's Kansas needs highly capable Information Assurance specialists who have expertise in network and information security and computer forensics. These specialists are vital to assure that information dependent organizations and individuals are safe and competitive in a very uncertain world security environment.

Implementation

Fort Hays State University will initiate a new emphasis in its existing B.S. and B.A. degrees in Information Networking and Telecommunications to provide both face-to-face and distance education in Network and Information Security. It will bolster its current Information Assurance Concentration in the Masters of Liberal Studies. As these are existing degree and concentration programs, the university has previous academic approvals from the Board of Regents. It now needs the fiscal resources to implement this plan.

Fort Hays State University leads the Kansas Cisco Networking Academy System that includes most of the state's community colleges and several technical colleges. This system has provided an effective tool for articulation and transfer. The Information Assurance undergraduate program will be designed and implemented to encourage articulation from two-year institutions.

The Fort Hays State University concentration will align with the National Security Agency (NSA) Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) standards. Creating the academic knowledge mass necessary to become a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education (NCAEIAE) will assure that Kansas has a critical tool for economic competitiveness and capable information technology specialists for government, health care, emergency response, military, and other critical sectors. Such a center is important in positioning Kansas competitively. It will help Kansas play an important role in providing for state and national security.

3) Fiscal and Administrative Impact The cost of additional faculty, other operating expenses, and equipment for the Network and Information Security program will be an on-going expenditure of \$532,536.40. Existing administrative systems should be sufficient to accommodate student enrollment and support.

4) Impact on other State Agency This proposal will benefit state agencies ranging from the Department of Administration to the Kansas National Guard and Kansas Bureau of Investigation by providing a pool of badly needed talent. It should have no external costs to other agencies and will provide external benefits to agencies needing Information Assurance expertise.

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	Salary	Benefits 19.12%	Health	Total
Network Security	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 13,384.00	\$ 5,794.00	\$ 89,178.00
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INT Temporary	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 8,604.00	\$ 5,794.00	\$ 59,398.00
Computer Forensics	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 13,384.00	\$ 5,794.00	\$ 89,178.00
Upgrade of positions				
Shaffer	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,434.00		\$ 8,934.00
Walters	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,434.00		\$ 8,934.00
Upgrade of chair	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 382.40		\$ 2,382.40
Academic OOE				\$ 15,000.00
Cisco Networking	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 9,560.00	\$ 5,794.00	\$ 65,354.00
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*OOE Travel,				\$ 30,000.00
Equipment &				\$ 75,000.00
Total				\$ 532,536.40

*This budget item is intended to fund training and support for community college faculty and to provide Virtual Lab access to distance learning students.