

## FACULTY AGENDA ITEM NO 15-07

Date: 11-13-14

Submitted by: Ryan Alexander, PhD 670-2075

**SUBJECT:** Criminal Justice Proposal for a new emphasis in Forensic Investigations

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a proposal for a new emphasis within the Criminal Justice Major. This emphasis, Forensic Investigations, will allow students to graduate with practical experience and educational acumen in the field of evidence identification, collection, and preliminary analysis. The current partnership with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) Crime Laboratory allows for added classroom space, equipment, and potential shared educational opportunities.

**RATIONALE:** This emphasis is recommended because of the demand for educated evidence collection technicians and police have grown. Educational opportunities with a focus on this area of instruction and skills is currently difficult to obtain in Kansas. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that demand for employees with these specialized skills will grow by at least 6% in the coming years. Police departments have begun to recognize that employees with specialized skills concerning evidence identification, collection, and preliminary analysis not only save them resources but also preserve the integrity of criminal cases. This area of criminal justice specialization has garnered the interest of students seeking to fill the current void. Forensic science and forensic investigations are typically very popular courses at Washburn and there has been much interest from current students as well as students currently considering attending Washburn upon graduation from high school or as transfer students.

**Financial Implications:** There is a request in the formal proposal for a new 12 month tenure-track faculty member. This new member as proposed would be essential to the success of the new program. Currently the expertise of the faculty in the Criminal Justice Department does not include a person with the expertise needed to implement the program. Adjuncts from the KBI would also be used to supplement courses as well.

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2016

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

Approved by: *AAC on date November 10, 2014*

*FAC on date*

*Faculty Senate on date December 1, 2014*

Attachments Yes  No