

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 3 – B (2)
DATE: December 4-6, 2018

SUBJECT

Agreements on Academic Cooperation – USD

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 5:3](#) – Agreements and Contracts

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Board of Regents Policy 5:3 requires board action on a range of items including “Affiliative agreements and other agreements that provide for joint sponsorship of educational programming for which credit shall be awarded.” To comply with this requirement, the Northern State University seeks approval to enter into an agreement on academic cooperation with Yangtze University (YU), China.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

This agreement with YU is for a 2+3, undergraduate to graduate, fast-track Master of Science in Physics with a specialization in Analytics for Large Data Sets. This agreement will allow for collaboration in research and student exchange, whereby YU will send up to 10 students per year to USD to participate in the accelerated Master’s program.

YU students will pay tuition, fees, housing, board and related costs for credits they are enrolled in at USD directly to USD. Non-resident tuition rates will be applied, and all mandatory and course/discipline fees will be assessed. YU students will also be responsible for paying for their own travel and any other incidental costs. The agreement would be valid for a period of five years.

Board staff recommend approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Agreement on Academic Cooperation: USD & Yangtze University

DRAFT MOTION 20181204_3-B(2):

I move to approve the agreement on academic cooperation between the University of South Dakota and Yangtze University.

**Agreement Between
Department of Physics, University of South Dakota, USA and
The School of Physics and Optoelectronics of Yangtze University, of China**

On the basis of a mutual commitment to further international understanding and friendship, to share academic knowledge and to establish and develop mutually beneficial academic contacts, University of South Dakota (USD) and Yangtze University (YU) agree to the following:

I. SCOPE OF THE COOPERATION

This agreement is for a 2+3, undergraduate to graduate, fast-track Master of Science in Physics with a specialization in Analytics for Large Data Sets. The School of Physics and Optoelectronics of YU will send up to ten students per year to USD, Department of Physics as participating students for a 2+3 accelerated Master's program.

For the 2+3 Master's program, YU physics students who have completed two years of YU's Physics or Applied Physics curriculum may qualify as participating students. Prospective participants will submit to USD all documents required for admission by the published deadlines. Students who are accepted to the undergraduate portion of the accelerated program, but who do not meet USD's English language proficiency requirements, will be admitted to USD's Intensive English Program (IEP), and upon successful completion of level III of the IEP, all students will receive a non-degree I-20 for the pursuit of the accelerated undergraduate program. Students who meet USD's English language proficiency requirements can forgo the IEP and will be issued a non-degree I-20 for the pursuit of the accelerated undergraduate program. After students fulfill the requirements for a YU bachelor's degree and YU awards said degree, qualified students will submit the required official graduate admission documents and receive admission to USD's Master of Science in Physics, Specialization in Analytics for Large Data Sets. Yangtze University will keep the registry for students for no more than 6 years, if the students do not meet the Bachelor degree conferral requirements after the fourth year, YU will delay the conferral of the degree until they meet the requirements within the valid registry timeline.

The intent of this agreement is to enumerate and clarify the responsibilities of the parties involved.

II. STUDENT EXCHANGE

A. USD'S Responsibilities:

- i. USD has developed an undergraduate to graduate, fast-track program that will allow qualifying students to begin coursework for a Master of Science degree in Physics while registered as undergraduate students and to complete the program at USD as M.S. students. Participating students will receive a Master of Science from USD upon successfully completing all degree requirements.
- ii. USD Department of Physics will appoint an administrator or faculty member to oversee the overall academic program and the academic progress of the students. USD will work directly with Yangtze on all matters.
- iii. USD Department of Physics will provide academic advising.
- iv. USD's International Office will provide YU with a list of courses and grades for the Intensive English Program that students have taken for the third year and a list of courses that students have taken and the credits that students have earned at USD for the fourth year.
- v. USD's International Office will provide YU with a list of anticipated costs each year.
- vi. USD's International Office will provide each admitted student with the documents necessary to apply for a U.S. student visa at the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate overseas. USD will provide an updated fact sheet describing current regulations, costs, and allowable work opportunities.
- vii. USD's International Office will provide orientation activities during the first days of the YU students' arrival to include introductions to staff/teachers, academic orientation, orientation to housing and meals, review of the schedule, orientation to campus facilities, explanation of rules and regulations, and campus tour.
- viii. USD's International Office will arrange for airport pickup as part of the scheduled international student arrival program.

B. YU's Responsibilities:

- i. YU will grant participating students a Bachelor Degree after the fourth year when they have accomplished their third and fourth year courses at USD.
- ii. YU will have each participant fill out an USD application form and residential room application form and will submit all required application documents as provided by the International Office.
- iii. YU will have each participant pay the applicable tuition, fees, housing, board, and related costs for the credits in which they enroll at USD, directly to USD. The rate of tuition charged will be non-resident, and all mandatory and course/discipline fees will be assessed.

- iv. YU will have each participant provide for the international travel costs of the YU group to and from Vermillion, SD, including all airport transfers and taxes.
- v. YU will have each participant arrange for visas and related travel documents.
- vi. Each student will pay directly and separately to their student account designated by USD.
- vii. YU students will obtain major medical insurance coverage through USD's International Student insurance provider.
- viii. YU will have participants comply with all university rules and regulations.

III. APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATORS

Each institution shall designate an individual who will serve as coordinator for this agreement. The coordinator will be responsible for maintaining, revising, and/or and renewing the agreement, as appropriate. In addition, each institution shall name at least one academic contact, and this person will coordinate the specific aspects of the agreement.

The following individuals at each institution will be responsible for coordinating this agreement:

University of South Dakota	Yangtze University
<p>PRIMARY CONTACT FOR AGREEMENT Name: Patrick Morrison Title: Assistant Director, International Student Services Office: International Office Email: Patrick.Morrison@usd.edu Telephone: (605) 658-6219 Fax: 605-677-6323</p>	<p>PRIMARY CONTACT FOR AGREEMENT Name: Zeng Yajun Title: Director Office: Office of International Exchange & Cooperation Email: zyajun@yangtzeu.edu.cn Telephone: 0716-8062997 Fax: 0716-8060236</p>
<p>ACADEMIC UNIT CONTACT Name: Yongchen Sun Title: Chair Office: Physics Dept., College of Arts & Sciences Email: Yongchen.Sun@usd.edu Telephone: 605-677-5063</p>	<p>ACADEMIC UNIT CONTACT Name: Tian Yonghong Title: Dean Office: School of Physics and Optoelectronics Email: yhtian@yangtzeu.edu.cn Telephone: 0716-8062320</p>

The individuals in the positions listed above agree to respond to inquiries and correspondence from the partner institution in a timely and efficient manner.

IV. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- A. This agreement shall be valid for a period of five years. This agreement will be effective upon signature of the responsible authority of each institution and may be terminated by either party by given written notice to the other institution six months in advance of the date of termination. A termination of the agreement will not affect persons who have already begun an exchange under its provisions.
- B. Matters not provided in this agreement shall be decided by mutual agreement between the two institutions. Additional joint activities will require the execution of a separate agreement.
- C. Modifications of this agreement shall be made in the form of a written addendum signed by both parties.
- D. Nothing in the above agreement shall be construed as being legally binding.
- E. This agreement depends upon the continued availability of appropriated funds and expenditure authority for this purpose from the Legislature of the State of South Dakota. If for any reason the Legislature fails to appropriate or grant expenditure authority or if funds become unavailable by operation of law or federal funds reductions, this agreement will be terminated by USD. Termination for any of these reasons is not a default by USD nor does it give rise to a claim against USD.

In the spirit of international friendship and cooperation, we hereby set our signatures:

for University of South Dakota

for Yangtze University

Sheila Gestring, President

Xie Hongxing, President

Date:

Date: