National Security Studies Major: Training Future National Security Leaders from the Heartland

Problem/Issue Statement

Today's national security leadership comes mostly from a narrow subsection of students from coastal universities. With KSU's existing strength in graduate training in security studies, this is an excellent time to develop a complementary undergraduate major in national security studies to train our country's future national security leaders. This program will build from our existing interdisciplinary graduate program in Security Studies, which has a well-developed relationship with the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. While the core courses will come from political science and history, students will select a cyber security track or a regional/language intensive track. This program will allow us to prepare the next generation of leaders to engage with emerging security challenges and be prepared to contribute to national security problems in specific countries or regions. This program will also ensure that some of that leadership is drawn from the excellent pool of students that we have here in Kansas.

Request Description

This program will require resources to ensure that the students are trained by scholars that are at the cutting edge of these research areas. Our programs already house many such scholars, but to compete with other programs, we need to recruit additional scholars and practitioners in areas of need. This would include the following positions:

(1) a political scientist that studies international cybersecurity - estimated cost $262,500 / year.
(2) a historian that studies the U.S. military – estimated cost $262,500 / year.
(3) a Russian language teaching assistant professor – estimated cost $192,500 / year.
(4) a computer scientist that studies cybersecurity – estimated cost $385,000 / year.

Total - $1.1 million per year

Request Goals and Expected Outcomes

The goal of this program is to make KSU the heartland hub of national security training. Our continued national security requires a deep pool of citizens well trained in the history, strategy, technology, and politics of national security, drawn from a wide cross-section of the population that will include the nation's heartland. The expected outcome from this project is that we will train students that are well prepared for careers in the DoD, CIA, NSA, NSC, State Department, and other institutions of national security. Those students will be especially well trained in the skills necessary to secure the U.S. against cyber threats and/or will develop historical expertise and language skills that will prepare them to counter the greatest regional threats in the 21st century.

Appropriations Subcommittee

Defense
Homeland Security
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Request Type

Funding Request ☒   Bill Language Request ☐