

PROGRAM REVIEW
Fairmont State Board of Governors

Program with Special Accreditation Program without Special Accreditation

Date Submitted February 2015

Program Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree
Degree and Title

INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATION

The institution is obligated to recommend continuance or discontinuance of a program and to provide a brief rationale for its recommendation:

- 1. Continuation of the program at the current level of activity;
- 2. Continuation of program with corrective action (for example, reducing the range of optional tracks or merging programs);
- 3. Identification of the program for further development (for example, providing additional institutional commitment);
- 4. Development of a cooperative program with another institution, or sharing courses, facilities, faculty, and the like;
- 5. Discontinuation of the Program

Rationale for Recommendation:

Pamela Stephens
Signature of person preparing report:

2/13/15
Date

Pamela Stephens
Signature of Dean

2/13/15
Date

Christina Gavorata
Signature of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs:

3-27-15
Date

Marion C. Roe
Signature of President:

4-27-15
Date

Ken L. [Signature]
Signature of Chair, Board of Governors:

4/28/15
Date

Executive Summary for Program Review

(not to be more than 2-3 pages)

Name and degree level of program

Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Degree Program

External reviewer(s)

Kristi D. Wood-Turner, Ed.D.

Director, Learning and Engagement

- Center for Service and Learning
- Academic Degree Programs

University College, West Virginia University

Synopses of significant findings, including findings of external reviewer(s)

The RBA program needs to strengthen its portfolio process and enhance its online presence. Currently, most files and programmatic records are available only in a hard copy format. Opportunities exist to enhance the program by encouraging more students to submit portfolios for evaluation, allowing students to declare minors, creating pathways to master's programs, ensuring that data collection is mindful of adult students' preferred methods of communication, and increasing outreach to Veteran students and their families. (See Appendix A for full report.)

Plans for program improvement, including timeline

To begin, the RBA program application will be made available online. The creation and posting of an RBA student handbook would provide pertinent information about the program and its requirements to both prospective and current students. Online resources will also emphasize the option for students to earn credit through various prior learning assessment (PLA) opportunities including the development of portfolios.

Research indicates that students receiving credit through PLA methods have higher degree-earning rates, better graduation rates, and show stronger patterns of enrollment (CAEL, March 2010) than students who did not receive credit for prior learning. Consequently, a concerted effort will be made to market the PLA options available in the RBA program.

Identification of weaknesses or deficiencies from the previous review and the status of improvements implemented or accomplished

During the last review, Fairmont State had agreed to participate in the RBA Today pilot project that was being implemented in fall 2010. The lack of an RBA coordinator and resulting inconsistency of recruitment to the program were identified as being the primary weaknesses in the previous report. As a result, an RBA coordinator was appointed in early 2010.

Five-year trend data on graduates and majors enrolled

Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Degree Program					
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Majors	106	108	112	125	134
Graduates	52	45	75	60	59

Summary of assessment model and how results are used for program improvement

As an interdisciplinary degree, the RBA does not have a designated major or minor. Fairmont State courses used to complete the RBA program requirements are housed and assessed within the departments that offer the courses. Each academic school or department maintains course outcomes and assessments within TaskStream. Courses that are designated as meeting General Studies requirements must also fulfill the outcomes developed by the General Studies Committee; these courses are assessed according to the assessment cycle established by the committee. Courses offered online through WVROCKS with the RBAS prefix must meet Quality Matters (QM) standards in order to be viable for placement on the course schedule.

Data on student placement (for example, number of students employed in positions related to the field of study or pursuing advanced degrees)

Results from the “Graduate Follow Up” surveys do not provide adequate data from which any assumptions can be made. Responses are available only for the 2010-11 survey, with two RBA students responding. Both students rated their overall educational experience as “very satisfactory” and thought the overall costs to them personally or to their families were worthwhile. While respondents indicated working in government positions (federal, state, or local), one for the FBI and the other for the Department of Health and Human Resources, each reported that their current occupations were either “not related at all” or “only peripherally” to the academic program of study. Starting salaries were reported in the ranges of \$35,000-39,999 and \$20,000-24,999.

Final recommendations approved by governing board.

PROGRAM REVIEW

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY OR PIERPONT COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE	
Program:	Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree
School:	Academic Affairs
Date:	February 2015

Program Catalog Description:

The Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree Program (RBA) is a flexible, nontraditional program designed for adults in the belief that they are distinctly different from traditional undergraduates in their needs. The program can be tailored to fit the needs of those who need a degree for career advancement, those who have an associate degree in a field in which there is no corresponding bachelor's degree available, or those who seek intellectual development and personal fulfillment. The Regents Degree has particular appeal for persons who have completed some college work in past years but did not obtain a degree.

VIABILITY (§ 4.1.3.1)

Applications

Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Degree Program—Applications					
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Applications	46	50	53	60	76
Rejections	1	0	0	1	0
Withdrawn	1	0	1	0	1
Incomplete	4	2	2	0	1
Accepted	40	48	50	59	74
Registered	34	29	35	47	51

Majors and Graduates

Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Degree Program					
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Majors	106	108	112	125	134
Graduates	52	45	75	60	59

<p><i>Applicants, graduates</i></p>	<p>A student is admitted to the RBA program by submitting the special application form to the RBA coordinator. Admission to this program does not provide for automatic admission to other programs at Fairmont State University. Applicants must have graduated from high school at least four years before admission to the program. Persons with high school equivalency certificates may be admitted four years after their high school class graduated. There is no fee for admission to the program. If an applicant has previous college credit, failing grades of F received four years or more before admission to the RBA program are disregarded.</p> <p>To qualify for graduation, candidates must accumulate a total of 120 semester hours of credit with a quality point average of 2.00. At least 39 hours must be at the upper (3300-4400) level. Students must complete 36 semester hours of General Studies courses, including the required semester hours in each of the following areas: Communications (6), Social Sciences (6), Natural Sciences (6), Mathematics or Computer Science (3), Humanities (6) and 9 additional General Studies hours. At least 24 semester hours must be taken in the West Virginia State System of Higher Education.</p>
<p><i>Program courses</i></p>	<p>The RBA is an interdisciplinary degree with no major. The program can be tailored to meet the needs of individual students. Due to the flexible nature of the program, the RBA degree does not require specific courses. The option exists for students to concentrate in an Area of Emphasis by completing a minimum of 15 hours of upper-division, graded coursework with not less than a C in each course. Students are encouraged to individualize their programs of study to gain the knowledge and skills that will most enhance their current careers, assist them with changing professional fields, facilitate entrance into graduate programs, spark their intellectual curiosity, or garner personal fulfillment.</p>

<p><i>Program requirements</i></p>	<p>The RBA degree is comprised of 120 credit hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 hours of upper-division (3300-4400 level) courses • 36 hours of General Studies hours as follows: Communications (6 hours), Social Sciences (6 hours), Natural Sciences (6 hours), Mathematical Sciences or Computer Applications (3 hours), and Other General Studies (9 hours) • 45 free elective hours <p>While the RBA degree does emphasize flexibility in meeting program requirements, the RBA program encourages students to follow the General Studies course options adopted by Fairmont State.</p>
<p><i>Virtual, compressed, upper-division courses</i></p>	<p>In fall 2010, the RBA Today initiative was launched as a statewide effort to enhance the traditional RBA program by proposing the development of virtual, compressed (eight-weeks), upper-division courses with no prerequisites, to be offered by the public colleges and universities in the West Virginia State System of Higher Education. At that time, an RBA coordinator was appointed at Fairmont State to assist with the implementation of these courses at the university and to help recruit students to the program.</p> <p>Along the way, RBA Today transitioned into what is now known as the West Virginia Remote Online Collaborative Knowledge System (WVROCKS). Since fall 2012, when the first five courses became available through the statewide portal, Fairmont State has been enrolling students in these courses (Table 1), which are identified on the institution's schedule of courses with the prefix RBAS.</p> <p>In fall 2014, with grant funding, WVROCKS began offering courses designated as part of the State Police Project. These criminal justice-based courses allow members of West Virginia law enforcement enrolled in the RBA program to enhance their advancement opportunities within their professional fields while working toward completion of a Regents Bachelor of Arts degree.</p> <p>At this point, pass and success rates are available for the initial RBAS courses but not for the State Police Project courses (Table 2).</p>

Program costs and fees

There is no fee required for application for admission into the RBA Degree Program.

Registration and service fees for enrollment in courses are assessed according to the established fee schedule at each institution. Therefore, RBA students enrolled in traditional courses would have tuition and fees equivalent to other Fairmont State students. However, for students enrolled in at least one RBAS course, financial aid can cover tuition and fees up to and including 12 semester hours. Once an RBA student receiving financial aid enrolls in at least 13 semester hours, then each additional credit hour is \$223 and must be financed by alternative methods.

For determination of college-equivalent credit (CEC) for work and life experience, when requested by a student, an assessment fee of \$300 is charged. This fee is charged each time a student requests any assessment of work not included in the initial appraisal. In addition to the assessment fee, a processing fee of \$10 per credit hour is assessed for hours awarded through portfolio assessment.

RBA students are assessed the same graduation fees as other Fairmont State University students.

Table 1: Enrollment Information for WVROCKS/RBAS Courses

Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Degree Program							
<i>WVROCKS/RBAS courses</i>							
		Fall 2012	Spring 2013	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	TOTAL
3300	Self-Leadership & Personal Growth	9	26	27	14	-	76
3301	Management Problems in the Family	8	-	28	-	24	60
3303	Advanced Digital Literacy	3	13	15	8	7	46
3304	Politics & Film	4	-	18	-	10	32
3306	Adulthood & Aging	5	-	-	-	-	5
3307	The Bible as Literature	-	22	18	14	17	71
3308	Ethical Leadership	-	27	14	22	-	63
3309	Management of Service Organizations	-	25	23	12	10	70
3310	The Short Story	-	23	19	10	9	61
3311	Criminology	-	-	-	19	13	32
3312	Abnormal Psychology	-	-	-	14	14	28
3313	African American History	-	-	-	19	5	24
3314	Human Communications & Rational Decisions	-	-	-	25	12	37
3315	Security & Insecurity in World Politics	-	-	-	7	8	15
3316	* Administration of Criminal Justice	-	-	-	-	0	0
3317	Survey of 19th Century French Literature	-	-	-	-	5	5
3318	* Terrorism	-	-	-	-	1	1
3319	E-Commerce Strategy	-	-	-	-	16	16
3320	* Drugs & Crime	-	-	-	-	1	1
3321	* Applied Ethics in Criminal Justice	-	-	-	-	-	
3322	* Criminal Justice Research Methods	-	-	-	-	-	
3323	* Criminal Liability in Criminal Justice	-	-	-	-	-	
3324	Resort Management	-	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL	29	136	162	164	152	643

* Available only to RBA students participating in the State Police Project

Table 2: Pass and Success Rates for WVROCKS/RBAS Courses

Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Degree Program						
<i>WVROCKS/RBAS courses—Pass and Success Rates</i>						
RBAS	Course Name	2012-13		2013-14		Overall Success Rate
		<i>Enrolled</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Enrolled</i>	<i>Passed</i>	
3300	Self-Leadership & Personal Growth	35	20	41	26	60.50%
3301	Management Problems in the Family	8	5	28	22	75.00%
3303	Advanced Digital Literacy	16	9	23	19	71.80%
3304	Politics & Film	4	1	18	7	36.40%
3306	Adulthood & Aging	5	4	-	-	80.00%
3307	The Bible as Literature	22	16	32	19	64.80%
3308	Ethical Leadership	27	21	36	27	76.20%
3309	Management of Service Organizations	25	17	35	22	65.00%
3310	The Short Story	23	16	29	21	71.20%
3311	Criminology	-	-	19	14	73.70%
3312	Abnormal Psychology	-	-	14	12	85.70%
3313	African American History	-	-	19	12	63.20%
3314	Human Communications & Rational Decisions	-	-	25	21	84.00%
3315	Security & Insecurity in World Politics	-	-	7	3	42.90%
3316	* Administration of Criminal Justice	-	-	-	-	
3317	Survey of 19th Century French Literature	-	-	-	-	
3318	* Terrorism	-	-	-	-	
3319	E-Commerce Strategy	-	-	-	-	
3320	* Drugs & Crime	-	-	-	-	
3321	*Applied Ethics in Criminal Justice	-	-	-	-	
3322	* Criminal Justice Research Methods	-	-	-	-	
3323	* Criminal Liability in Criminal Justice	-	-	-	-	
3324	Resort Management	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL	165	109	326	225	68.02%

* Available only to RBA students participating in the State Police Project

Liberal Studies Requirements Met

The RBA degree is comprised of 120 credit hours:

- 39 hours of upper-division (3300-4400 level) courses
- 36 hours of General Studies hours as follows: Communications (6 hours), Social Sciences (6 hours), Natural Sciences (6 hours), Mathematical Sciences or Computer Applications (3 hours), and Other General Studies (9 hours)
- 45 free elective hours

While the RBA degree does emphasize flexibility in meeting program requirements, the RBA program encourages students to follow the General Studies course options adopted by Fairmont State.

Assessment Requirements

As an interdisciplinary degree, the RBA does not assess individual or specific courses within the program. RBA students, however, are held to the same standards and guidelines as students enrolled in other major areas. RBA students generally complete the same courses as other university students, and students who transfer in to Fairmont State must submit official transcripts from their previous colleges and universities. Only credit earned at accredited institutions will be transcribed to the students' academic history.

In addition to successful completion of college courses, RBA students also attain credit hours through various forms of standardized prior learning assessment (PLA), including the following:

- College-Level Exam Program (CLEP)
- Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
- DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST)
- Prior Military Training Credit
- American Council on Education (ACE) Guides
- Excelsior College Examination (ECE) Program
- Certified credentials, such as certifications and licensures, as identified in the RBA Administrative Guidelines

A unique feature of the RBA program is the possibility for students to obtain college-equivalent credit for learning that has taken place outside of a college, if that learning is equivalent to the college-level learning that occurs within courses offered by accredited institutions of higher education. In order to ensure the validity of the learning, portfolios are developed using the course learning outcomes for guidance and are evaluated by appropriate faculty members who are experts in their fields.

By following the General Studies course options adopted by Fairmont State as the framework to meet the RBA General Studies requirement, most RBA students are completing General Studies courses grounded in learning outcomes established by the General Studies Committee. While the students themselves may be unaware of the intended outcomes of the General Studies program, the approved courses have undergone extensive review to ensure they sufficiently meet the stated outcomes. Students enrolled in other majors are required to complete at least 30 semester hours outside of their declared major, and RBA students must complete at least 36 hours within the General Studies area. While the categories of General Studies differs between the RBA program and other programs, the intent is similar, and RBA students generally enroll in the same courses as other students.

For the eight-weeks, online, compressed RBAS courses offered through WVROCKS, each course is designed to meet Quality Matters (QM) standards and are taught by faculty members at various public college and universities in the West Virginia State System of Higher Education.

College-equivalent Credit and Portfolio Information

Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Degree Program <i>Portfolio and CEC assessment information for FSU students</i>					
Number of . . .	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
FSU students requesting portfolio review	5	2	7	2	2
Lower-division hours awarded	218	62	113	5	85.5
Upper-division hours awarded	98	60	145	48	45
Total credit awarded through portfolio and CEC assessment	316	122	258	53	130.5

Adjunct Use

The RBA program does not have specified faculty. The degree utilizes courses taught throughout all the curricula offered by Fairmont State University, in the West Virginia State System of Higher Education, and in other accredited institutions of higher education throughout the country. Students in this degree program have access to full-time, part-time, and adjunct faculty.

Graduation/Retention Rates

Traditional methods of calculating graduation and retention rates by using first-time, full-time student cohorts do not translate well to the RBA program. The majority of students enrolled in the RBA program would be excluded from such a calculation because all RBA students have been out of high school for at least four years. Students generally enroll in the RBA program with a class rank of junior or senior; many have either accumulated many credit hours at various institutions or previously stopped out of college.

Previous Program Review Results

Identification of the program for further development (for example, providing additional institutional commitment)

Rationale: The Regents Bachelor of Arts degree is firmly grounded in state guidelines. The degree provides the option for adult students to use work and life experiences, as well as credits earned at previous institutions to earn a degree. The flexibility of the program is valuable to busy adult students and the RBA Today option to the current Regents Bachelor of Arts degree will afford students even more flexibility. With statewide recruitment for this new program, the RBA degree will most likely see additional students enrolling in the program. With a new president at Fairmont State University and with additional advising support for the program, the program is certain to grow and provide opportunities for many West Virginia students.

ADEQUACY (§ 4.2.4.2)

Program Requirements:

Liberal Studies	32-42	36 hrs.	Communications (6 hours) Social Sciences (6 hours) Natural Sciences (6 hours) Math or Computer Applications (3 hours) Humanities (6 hours) Other General Studies (9 hours)
Major	32-65	39 hrs.	The RBA is an interdisciplinary degree with no major. The program can be tailored to meet the needs of individual students. However, 39 hours of 3300-4400 level courses are required.
Electives	min 21	45 hrs.	Free elective hours
TOTAL	max 128	120 hrs.	
<p>Programs not meeting the above requirements must request a continuation of their exception with a justification below:</p>			

Faculty Data

The RBA program does not have specified faculty. The degree utilizes courses taught throughout all the curricula offered by Fairmont State University, in the West Virginia State System of Higher Education, and in other accredited institutions of higher education throughout the country. Students in this degree program have access to full-time, part-time, and adjunct faculty.

Accreditation/national standards

The Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) Degree Program was established by the state of West Virginia in 1975. Continuation of the program is administratively overseen by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

Students enrolled in the RBA program must meet the same admissions standards as all students admitted to Fairmont State University. In addition:

- Applicants must have graduated from high school at least four years before admission to the program.
- Persons with high school equivalency certificates may be admitted four years after their high school class graduated
- Transfer students must be eligible to return to their prior transfer institution.
- Applicants who have previously earned a baccalaureate degree are not eligible to enroll in the program.

After admission to the RBA program, students are subject to the academic requirements of the RBA degree and to the general grading practices as outlined in the Fairmont State University catalog.

To ensure the academic integrity of the program, the Academic Affairs Council, comprised of academic deans and chairs, the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, and the Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs provide institutional counsel for the program. Biannually, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) convenes meetings of the statewide RBA Coordinators to discuss RBA policies, procedures, and guidelines and to ensure the academic integrity of the program.

NECESSITY (§ 4.1.3.3)

According to recent reports, it is projected that from 2008 to 2018, 49 percent of all jobs in West Virginia will require the completion of postsecondary education with approximately 20,000 newly created positions requiring such training for employment. For currently employed individuals the lack of a baccalaureate degree can also hinder professional promotion or advancement. Presently, there are nearly 200,000 students who have some college credit but no degree in the state of West Virginia. Many of these adult students have full lives and limited time to attend college courses in the traditional manner. The RBA program offers adult students access to a higher education that they may not have otherwise. With a flexible curriculum, online access to upper-level compressed courses, and the ability to apply previous college and PLA credit toward the degree, the RBA program is essential to helping support the economic viability of the state and to develop a more informed citizenry.

CONSISTENCY WITH MISSION (§ 4.1.3.4)

The mission of Fairmont State University is to provide opportunities for individual to achieve their professional and personal goals and discover roles for responsible citizenship that promote the common good.

The RBA program is founded on the belief that adult students in particular need the option of attaining a higher education through a flexible and accessible mode. The RBA program is a way of allowing adult students “to achieve their professional and personal goals.” Without the ability to tailor the curriculum or to choose which courses to pursue, many adult students may not be able to complete a college degree. In today’s world of work, completion of a baccalaureate degree is often a requirement for either entry into the workforce or promotion within it. Furthermore, as students encounter various perspectives throughout their college careers, often through enrollment in General Studies courses, they begin to view themselves as parts of the greater society, which leads to “responsible citizenship that promote(s) the common good.” The RBA program not only promotes the mission of Fairmont State, but the program makes it possible for a greater number of students to attain a higher education to meet their personal and professional goals and to create a more informed citizenry.

Signatures and Recommendations

The required sheet with signatures and recommendation should be used as a cover sheet.

External Program Review

Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree

KRISTI D. WOOD-TURNER, ED.D

2015

Site Visit: 2/09/2015

Report: 2/12/2015

External Program Review

Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree

Overview

The RBA degree is an innovative baccalaureate designed to be a foundational bachelor's degree for adult students. Time, space and program requirements are designed to meet the special needs of the adult learner. The program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive general education that provides individualized skills and learning outcomes. It differs from other bachelor's degrees in that RBA students may earn "College-Equivalent Credit" for skills and knowledge gained through life experiences, which can be equated to college courses.

The RBA degree program assumes that adults have different needs and goals than traditional undergraduates. Therefore, time, space, and program requirements are designed to meet the special needs of the adult learner. The program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive general education without the requirement of a specific major. There are not standard courses required for graduation, which allows students to design their own programs of study. There is considerable flexibility in how, when, and where course requirements are met: students may earn credit through on campus courses, online courses, TV and satellite courses, Internet and e-mail courses, correspondence courses, or by credit by exam.

Reflected in the following report are the details of a site visit and program review for the Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree (RBA) program conducted in Spring 2015. Additional information was gleaned from the internal report presented by Pam Stephens of Fairmont State University. During the site visit, I was able to meet with the program coordinator to discuss the RBA program and where she envisions the program going in the coming years. Program Coordinator: Ms. Pamela Stephens, Coordinator, RBA Program

As noted in the 5 year report written by the coordinator of the program, Fairmont State University (FSU) enrolls students in the RBA in a similar model to their current General Education matriculation. They utilize the PLA options for these students as well as direct work with WV Rocks to provide additional courses. The enrollment trends show a steady amount of students each year, a total number of graduates to date is 1800. The design of this program lends itself to a difficult assessment process. Students attend part-time and often stop out for up to a year. FSU has made plans to begin a more structured process for collecting data and assessment.

Program Strengths

- The Program Coordinator is a helpful resource for the post-traditional students.
- Many aspects of the program are in the process of being revised and updated to include ease of use for students and collection of data.
- Individual advising is available and used by the students.

- Relationship between Pierpont and FSU is strong and continues to support direct pathways for students in to the RBA.
- There is a large percentage of adult learners on campus and enrollment has remained steady over the past 5 years.
- The space for the RBA administrator is accessible and conveniently located.
- Mission of the University and the RBA degree program are aligned with outcomes that support student learning.
- The increase in online courses available through WV Rocks is dramatic and a big benefit to the students.
- The website is a great interactive tool and should be highlighted in continued promotion.
- The Degree Now grants were utilized to their full potential.

Areas of Concern

- The systems currently used are out dated and need to be revised to accommodate for the assessment collections. This is currently being revised.
- With an increase in recruitment, the program may want consider an additional advisor to handle the case load.
- Opportunities for more online or evening course options on the main campus may increase the participation of adult learners in the co-curricular activities.

Recommendations

Increase the number of students submitting portfolio for credit. Although portfolio submissions have remained relatively steady, the amount of credits students are receiving from the submissions has decreased significantly. I would suggest that students who are completing the portfolio are provided with a structured workshop or even a course that assists in organizing and submitting the portfolio. This may calm some anxieties of the portfolio submission as well as help students get the most credits for the knowledge and skill they have. If you are interested in increasing the portfolio option, it can be more visible on the website and could be something that you use when recruiting students in specific fields or job markets.

I would highly suggest allowing RBA students to declare minors. This is a great way for the students to package their learning experience and highlight focus areas without the need to convince faculty to create a new Area of Emphasis (AoE) for the RBA.

Fully integrated use of the online resources and information pages. The admission application and many of the needed forms should be moved to an online format. This should not be a problem for this population who are often online learners.

Re-imagine the RBA in terms of the possibility of graduate school and advanced degrees. In order to increase enrollment and encourage higher education, it is critical to work with the adult learners on future degree planning.

Create a possibility for pathways to graduate or professional schools. Students may consider continuing at Fairmont in to a master's program if given a pathway that can guarantee admission. The Master degree in Criminal Justice would be a great starting pathway due to demand of degree and location/course delivery for adult learners. It is also in sync with a state wide push for law enforcement.

RBA coordinator should ensure that data is collected on this population, paying special attention to the methods of data collection for adult learners. Often online surveys yield lower completion rates and focus groups may be more beneficial.

The Veteran and military families should be more of a focus and highlight within the RBA. The program has the flexibility to accept many standard awards for military. Additionally, with the GI Bill, students often complete the RBA in a shorter time frame than traditional degrees. This opens up the possibility for Veterans to pursue post-secondary degrees.

Summary and Recommendation

With the recent changes in the program the FSU RBA has maintained a strong presence on campus. There are great ideas and goals both long term and short term that will allow this program to really thrive.

It is recommended to the Board of Governors that the Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) and Fairmont State University be continued at the current level of activity in reflection of a few concern areas.