Proposal:

It is proposed that UVU add the following programs: Political Science BA/BA Emphasis in Indian Affairs Administration, Certificate of Completion in Construction Management, Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security, and a BS in Information Systems Emphasis in Information Security Management. It is also proposed that the Computer Science BS Emphasis in Database be discontinued.

Background:

The Political Science BA/BA Emphasis in Indian Affairs Administration responds to President Holland’s Native American Initiative, as well as to repeated requests from tribal leaders regionally and nationally. Specific training for employment for tribal, state, and federal agencies related to Indian Affairs is available at the associate’s and master’s levels, but there are few, if any, bachelor-level degree programs with this concentration in the nation. Market demand may be imputed from meetings held at UVU over the past three years with regional tribal leaders, who have consistently requested training in tribal governance, management of tribal departments and agencies, and Native American enterprises. The emphasis will provide students with academic experiences, skills, and strategies to understand the scope of American indigenous communities within scholarly and applied contexts. Graduates will receive an academic background preparing them for relevant employment in tribal governments and other Indian organizations, state or federal agencies which serve Indian tribes and organizations, and private sector enterprises that work with Indian tribes and organizations. The Indian Affairs Administration concentration will emphasize the traditional acquisition of knowledge and skills that apply to American Indian communities and a vital sense of service to these communities.

The Emphasis in Information Security Management will provide students with training in a growing field that is already critically in demand. The rising star of the regional IT industry is the field of cyber security. Utah County is now the home of or a key venue for some of the world leaders in IT Security Technology. Further, taking advantage of the area’s corporate and human resources, the National Security Agency has chosen Utah Valley for the construction and implementation of a new Cyber Security Data Center, the largest security data center in the world. The facility expects to hire between 300 to 500 federal positions, with an additional 1,000 to 2,500 positions moving into the Utah Valley area to support the facility. To prepare workers for these positions and other employment deficits relevant to cyber security throughout the western United States, UVU proposes to implement several programs, including this Information Security Management emphasis to build on their existing Information Systems and Technology degrees and related programs. The timing for this type of program, in conjunction with the resources available to UVU on matters of cyber security, make this proposal a unique opportunity and more relevant to this region than perhaps any other in the United States. The shortage of cyber security staff is a national issue in all
sectors, both public and private. According to the head of cyber security for NSA, a 30-year veteran, “anyone who has a background in information security – whether in computer science, IT, or forensics – should not be unemployed at this time. There is enough work to employ everybody, and we still need people.” Survey results indicate that the information security workforce continues to show signs of strong growth. Their report estimates that there are 2.28 million information security professionals worldwide, a figure that is expected to increase to nearly 4.2 million by 2015. This emphasis will provide students with the specific skills and knowledge needed to enter and advance in this critically understaffed field.

The **Database emphasis** has never had a sustainable enrollment during its eight-year history. Since there is insufficient demand, UVU wishes to remove this emphasis from the four-year degree in Computer Science.

The **Certificate of Completion in Construction Management** is designed to provide students with the basic theory and practical training to enter the construction field as an assistant superintendent or crew foreman. The program serves as a stepping-stone towards the AAS and BS Degrees in Construction Management for students who wish to further their education in Construction Management. The program provides courses in construction materials and methods as well as safety, building codes, and surveying. The program provides training in heavy civil and commercial construction as well as residential trades.

The post-baccalaureate **Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security** will consist of 18 credits designed to provide students with advanced technical and managerial knowledge of cyber security, preparing them for senior technical and leadership roles in the field. To facilitate this certificate, several specialized courses will be created focusing on topics essential to cyber security. Courses cover topics including advanced technical studies, managing cyber security operations, and understanding how cyber security affects the global community.

**Recommendation:**

The President and the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed actions as summarized above and detailed in the attached documents.