

**Request for Authorization to Establish a
New Administrative Unit at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington**

Introduction

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington requests authorization to establish a new administrative unit, the College of Health and Human Services. The proposal for establishing this new college was approved by the UNCW Board of Trustees on March 18, 2008.

Description

The proposed new college will bring together a current school, the School of Nursing, and two academic departments in the current College of Arts and Sciences, Health and Applied Human Sciences and Social Work. These three units would be combined into a new college, the College of Health and Human Services. The campus established a Task Force on the Future of Health-related Programs at UNCW that was charged by the Provost in March 2007 and that completed its work in January 2008. The Task Force engaged in broad discussions across the institution regarding the direction UNCW should pursue in meeting the health-related needs of the area. The Task Force aligned its work with the work of the UNC Tomorrow Commission and saw its conclusions to be highly compatible with the Commission recommendations. The Task Force focused on bringing together the preparation, research, and service missions in health-related programs. Engagement with the region and the health challenges of the region were central themes of the work of the Task Force. The Task Force concluded that bringing nursing, health-related programs, and social work together in the same unit would provide the foundation to “facilitate the exchange of knowledge, expand research opportunities, leverage resources more effectively and address the core mission that all the units have in common.” As a result the Task Force believes that this new unit can “increase the number of high-quality health professionals to serve the region and the state” and can “strengthen professional and community partnerships that are reciprocal, mutually beneficial and address issues of consequence for the state and region.”

The Task Force not only recommended a new college, it also proposed guiding principles for establishing the new college to maximize its becoming a successful new unit on the UNCW campus. If the new college is approved, UNCW plans to establish the college effective August 2009.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to authorize a new College of Health and Human Services at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, effective August 2009.