

APPENDIX G

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Design Studies at North Carolina State University

Introduction

North Carolina State University requests authorization to establish a Bachelor of Arts degree in Design Studies (CIP 50.0703) in August 2007.

Program Description

The focus of the program is the study of the history and theory of the design disciplines, specifically, architecture, industrial design, graphic design, landscape architecture, crafts, textiles, and material culture. The program focuses on those arts that have a foot in both the fine arts and the practical arts. Students are encouraged to take the broadest view of the history of those arts with origins in “techne” or craft, relate this to the sciences (physical, life, and social), examine the cultural and political histories of the arts, and explore development of the arts in non-Western cultures. After students have acquired an introduction to the history of design, aesthetic inquiry, and methods of historical research, they will develop a focus area in consultation with Design Studies faculty, which will result in a capstone research project. The program is intended to stimulate cross-disciplinary activity within the College of Design. The program will provide tools students can use to understand the global context of modern design, and a faculty member with expertise in non-Western traditions will be hired.

Program Need

This degree program would be unique in North Carolina in its examination of the impact of science on the arts and the arts on science. The program is intended to produce graduates capable of synergistic thinking who will bring to the workplace the ability to produce creative innovations. Many NCSU students in the College of Design seek a program that does not lead directly to a professional degree. This program will address the desire of these students to obtain a more general liberal education as undergraduates before they proceed to graduate school. The minor in Design Studies has grown to approximately 20 students, and many of these students would pursue this major. It is anticipated that approximately 60 students will be enrolled in the program by its fourth year.

Resources

Facilities are currently adequate for the program. One existing faculty member will be reassigned to the program. As noted above, a faculty member with expertise in non-Western traditions will be hired, and two additional faculty will be hired in the third year with enrollment increase funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a BA in Design Studies degree (CIP 50.0703) at North Carolina State University effective August 2007.