

## APPENDIX H

### **Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health at UNC Charlotte**

#### **Introduction**

UNC Charlotte requests authorization to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health (CIP 51.2207) effective August 2007.

#### **Program Description**

The proposed BS in Public Health is designed to prepare students with knowledge and skills in the core concepts of public health including: health behavior, research and statistics in health, environmental health, epidemiology, and health administration as well as in the planning, evaluation, organization, and delivery of community and public health services. The interdisciplinary focus will include completion of a minor, electives, and experiential learning. The degree will prepare students for health-related careers in health promotion, program delivery, health communication, community organization, and behavior change positions in health departments, public health agencies, community-based organizations, outreach education programs, hospitals, private health organizations, and corporate wellness settings. The program is designed to appeal to students interested in population health rather than clinical health.

#### **Program Need**

The Department of Health Behavior and Administration offers a minor in Interdisciplinary Health Studies that attracts approximately 100 students each semester, many of whom would be interested in this major. The need for a competent public health workforce has been described in several publications, including a Bureau of Health Professions conclusion that only 20 percent of the nation's public health professionals have the education and training needed to do their jobs effectively. Issues such as the aging population, health disparities, and chronic disease are increasing the need for competent population-based scholar-practitioners. Community leaders on the Department's Public Health Advisory Board have expressed a need for well-prepared workers in the areas of health promotion, program delivery, health communication, community organization, and behavior change. It is anticipated that 90 full-time and 20 part-time students would be enrolled in the program by its fourth year.

#### **Resources**

The Department is currently recruiting five additional full-time faculty to be funded by enrollment increase funding that has come to the Department. The program will be housed in a new fully equipped, state-of-the-art building for the College of Health and Human Services.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the UNC-Charlotte request to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health (CIP 51.2207) effective August 2007.