

APPENDIX F

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Science Degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences at North Carolina Central University

Introduction

North Carolina Central University notified UNC-GA of its intent to plan an MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree (CIP 26.0102) in November 2006. NCCU requests authorization to establish the degree in August 2007.

Program Description

The MS degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences will develop a skilled workforce for the burgeoning industry of biotechnology through the Biomanufacturing Research Institute & Technology Enterprise (BRITE) Center for Excellence. The mission of the BRITE Center is to establish programs to educate and train students with scientific competency to work in biomanufacturing, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. North Carolina Central University has taken steps to establish a new Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences within the BRITE Center. This master's degree program will operate from this academic department. The goal for enrollment is approximately 20 graduate students for each class. Several new courses related to pharmaceutical sciences have been developed by faculty members, and students may take advantage of programs at other UNC institutions, such as the BTEC facility at North Carolina State University. The master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences was developed in conjunction with industry leaders and a broad array of NCCU faculty from the physical sciences and mathematics. Students with graduate degrees may become senior research scientists and team leaders in the industry.

Program Need

North Carolina is poised to become the nation's leader in biotechnology, especially in the areas of biomanufacturing and pharmaceuticals. With the commitment of \$64.5 million by the Golden LEAF Foundation and industry to build a statewide workforce training network for the biomanufacturing and pharmaceutical industries, the State has assured companies already based in North Carolina and those that might be recruited to the state that a supply of well-trained workers will be available. The demand for new employees each year at pharmaceutical companies in North Carolina with undergraduate and graduate degrees is unmet at the present. Students graduated from the MS program will be working as senior scientists or group leaders in the Quality Control/Quality Assurance sector or in the R&D areas of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

Resources

Current resources are adequate. BRITE is funded by Golden LEAF Foundation with \$20.1 million to construct a new facility with 52,000 gross square feet. Currently, eight tenure track and two non-tenure track faculty members are dedicated solely to this program. In 2006, BRITE spent \$2 million to purchase state-of-the-art equipment.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the NCCU request to establish an MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences effective August 2007.