

APPENDIX G

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts Degree in African and African-American Studies at Winston-Salem State University

Introduction

Winston-Salem State University requests authorization to establish a BA in African and African-American Studies (CIP 05.0201) effective January 2007.

Program Description

African and African-American Studies is an established multi-disciplinary field of study designed to help students acquire a comprehensive and critical knowledge of Africa and the African diaspora, especially of the political economy of sub-Saharan Africa and the African communities in the US, Canada, the Caribbean and South America. The program embraces all those disciplines in the humanities and social sciences relevant to an understanding of the historical, political, social and economic conditions of Africa and African-descended peoples. Courses from History, Geography, Philosophy, Art, Literature, Music, Religion, Sociology, Political Science, Psychology and other disciplines are used to increase students' understanding of the principal and critical issues in the field. The program will give students an essentially liberal arts education and prepare them for admission to graduate and professional schools.

Program Need

The institutional mission of WSSU is to offer high quality baccalaureate programs to a diverse student population. The university's 2001 strategic plan called for development of academic programs that contribute to the cultural richness of the university, the Triad region and the broader global community. The proposed program will contribute to achieving this strategic goal, including the encouragement of academic and cultural exchanges between WSSU students and students in Africa, the Caribbean, and South America. WSSU students have traditionally shown great interest in acquiring knowledge about Africa and the African diaspora as demonstrated in the high enrollments of courses that address these topics and a needs survey conducted in 2004. It is anticipated that by its fourth year the program would enroll 30 full-time and 15 part-time students.

Resources

The requested program is a multi-disciplinary program that will rely on courses already offered by a number of WSSU departments as noted above. The program will require no additional faculty or facilities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a BA in African & African-American Studies (CIP 05.0201) at Winston-Salem State University effective January 2007.