

APPENDIX E

Request for Authorization to Establish Bachelor of Arts in Leadership in the Public Sector at North Carolina State University

Introduction

North Carolina State University notified the General Administration of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Arts degree in Leadership in the Public Sector (24.0199) in May 2006. NCSU requests authorization to establish this program in August 2006.

Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Leadership Studies in the Public sector is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the study of leadership in environments in which maximization of profit is not the main objective. The proposed program has two objectives: to facilitate leadership development in the public sector in North Carolina and to employ technology to create an innovative learning environment. Thus, the proposed 122 hour program draws from strengths in various disciplines in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and it employs the distance education experience of NCSU to deliver the program to a statewide audience. It is expected that offering the proposed leadership program in a distance education delivery mode will allow access to those who could not attend otherwise, such as active duty military.

The proposed program is predicated on the assumption that exercising leadership in the public sector is different from leadership in the private sector. Many factors in the public sector exert a unique influence on public leadership, such as the oversight functions of the legislature and the intense conflict over policy options and outcomes. Students will be exposed to the political, philosophical, and practical dimensions of public leadership. Students will also be expected to complete a capstone course designed to integrate various elements of the curriculum. At the end of the program of study, students will understand: the concepts of leadership; the relationships between state, local and federal governments; how to use various analytical and research tools to identify problems and challenges facing the public sector; the concept of socio-technical systems, and how to assess their leadership characteristics.

Program Need

When planning the proposed program in Leadership in the Public Sector, NCSU conducted a market survey to determine the feasibility of starting such a program in the distance learning delivery mode. A positive response was received from 400 respondents; additionally, a UNC delegation met with representatives of North Carolina military bases to ascertain the demand for the proposed program by the military. Students who complete the proposed program will be prepared for careers in government and non-profit organizations. These areas are projected to grow significantly in the 21st century. Moreover, the distance learning delivery mode meets a growing need in North Carolina for residents who can pursue higher education in the more traditional format. The proposed program would be the first in the university system, at the undergraduate level. It is projected that by the fourth year, there will be 100 majors.

Resources

All new courses for the proposed degree program have been developed except one. It is projected that the existing faculty will teach the proposed program. Faculty have indicated that library resources are more than adequate. Additionally, over the years, NCSU had developed a library support system for distance education students. The support system includes librarians who travel around the state to offer instruction in remote classrooms and round-the-clock reference assistance for students.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Leadership in the Public Sector effective August 2006.