

APPENDIX G

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts Degree in Anthropology at North Carolina State University

Introduction

North Carolina State University notified UNC General Administration of its intent to plan a Master of Arts in Anthropology (CIP# 45.0201) in May 2005. NCSU requests authorization to establish the program in August 2007.

Program Description

The proposed program will be a 36-hour, two-year thesis program with six hours of common core courses in theory and qualitative research methods. Students will select one of three concentrations—cultural anthropology, environmental anthropology, or bioarchaeology—and will conduct research in that area. Students in the bioarchaeology concentration will receive specialized training in the theories and experience in the methods of skeletal biology and the archaeological dimensions of mortuary analysis. Students in the environmental concentration will study theories and methods relevant to human-environmental and ecological relations. Students in the cultural concentration will train in the comparative method and ethnography and have opportunities to engage in sustained ethnographic research projects. The program will build on the existing BA in Anthropology offered by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and will enable the department to build on departmental strengths in Global Social Change and Development, Sociolinguistics, and Environmental Studies and will provide an important component for a planned interdisciplinary Forensic Science Certificate. NCSU is academically and geographically well-suited for an MA program in Anthropology that emphasizes environmental studies and bioarchaeology. On-campus and statewide environmental research centers are available as well as the State Archaeology Laboratory in Raleigh operated by the Office of the State Archaeologist.

Program Need

The MA in Anthropology will build on NCSU's strengths in the sciences as well as the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' emphases on the environment and international studies. Only two bioarchaeology masters programs exist in the nation. The only other two graduate programs in the UNC system are a PhD program at UNC-Chapel Hill and a masters program at ECU that has different emphases. A variety of opportunities exist in the workforce for anthropology graduates that require skills in dealing with diverse populations (including North Carolina's immigrant population, Native American population, and others), societal and environmental issues, forensic sciences, as well as other issues in business, educational, research, and governmental settings. It is anticipated that the program will enroll 20 students on a full-time basis.

Resources

A detailed budget has been submitted showing by line item the additional costs of the program and the sources of funding for each item (either reallocation of present institutional resources or enrollment increase funds). Renovations for the buildings that house the Department of Sociology and Anthropology are scheduled as part of the bond building program. Space is also available at the Office of the State Archaeologist Research Center in Raleigh.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish an MA in Anthropology (CIP 45.0201) at North Carolina State University effective August 2007.