

## APPENDIX G

### **Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Science in Criminal Justice at Fayetteville State University**

#### **Introduction**

Fayetteville State University notified UNC General Administration of its intent to plan a Master of Science in Criminal Justice (CIP# 43.0104) in May 2005. FSU requests authorization to establish the program in August 2006.

#### **Program Description**

The purpose of the proposed MS in Criminal Justice is to produce graduates who have the research skills and theoretical knowledge needed to obtain professional, managerial, and research positions in criminal justice and/or pursue doctoral degrees in criminal justice or criminology. The “Theory in Action” theme of the program will encourage students to become change agents with a commitment to using their skills and knowledge to improve the quality of justice in their communities and in society. The program will have a thesis option for those who wish to pursue doctoral study. Graduates from a variety of programs in the social and behavioral sciences may find the program an attractive option for advanced academic and professional development. The program will also serve current criminal justice professionals, community advocates, and military personnel from nearby bases.

#### **Program Need**

The MS program will build on the very successful BS in Criminal Justice that enrolls over 300 undergraduate majors. Surveys of students and of regional employers indicate a high level of interest in a graduate program, which would help produce minority graduates who are underrepresented in the criminal justice field. The fields of law enforcement and corrections are growing as are the demands on these professions that require people with advanced degrees to conduct research and policy analysis. Criminal Justice Technology programs at NC community colleges are very popular programs, and these programs need master’s-prepared faculty. It is anticipated that both current and prospective community college faculty would enroll in the program. The program would also be popular with military personnel at bases who are furthering their education either for military-related or post-military careers. It is anticipated that 25 full-time and 45 part-time students would be enrolled by the fourth year of the program.

#### **Resources**

The Department of Criminal Justice received a focused-growth grant of \$180,000 and has used some of the funds to enhance technology and equipment. It is anticipated that three additional faculty will be needed by Fall 2007 and that these positions will be allotted to the program by the campus as part of its enrollment growth funding. Library holdings are being expanded with existing resources, and office space for new faculty is the only additional space that will be needed. A number of courses will be developed for online delivery using existing technology resources.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Science in Criminal Justice at Fayetteville State University effective August 2006.