

APPENDIX L

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Science in Women's and Gender Studies Degree at UNC Greensboro

Introduction

UNC Greensboro notified the Office of the President of its intent to request authorization for an MA degree in Women's and Gender Studies (CIP 05.0207) in February 2005. UNCG requests approval to establish the program in August 2006.

Program Description

The proposed interdisciplinary program will build on a very successful post-baccalaureate certificate program that enrolled 40 students in spring 2005. It will offer three options: 1) a concentration in Gender and Health, 2) a concentration in Gender and Community Leadership, and 3) an option for a general degree with an individualized program of study. The Health and Leadership concentrations will have an important component of professional skills development and will prepare students for employment in non-faculty positions in education, non-profit organizations, government and business. These courses are predominantly in the Non-Profit Management Certificate Program, the MBA Certificate Program, Public Health Education, and the master's program in Conflict Resolution. Students in the Gender and Health option will develop an understanding of gender as it relates to issues such as wellness, HIV/AIDS, family planning and reproductive health, cancer recovery, mental health, domestic violence, and maternal and child health. Students in the Gender and Community Leadership concentration will study conflict resolution and leadership models, leadership and advocacy, and strategic planning and team building. Students in the individualized program of study will apply their learning to an ancillary field and acquire competencies for work in multicultural settings. All students will demonstrate research skills by applying their knowledge in an internship experience and in a capstone research-based project or master's paper.

Justification

The UNCG Women's and Gender Studies Program was funded by the Council of Graduate Schools and the Ford Foundation to do a feasibility study for this degree. Enrollments in the very successful certificate program, several surveys, focus group sessions, and a growing database of prospective students all indicate a strong demand for the program. Globalization and migration have dramatically changed communities and families in the US and abroad with significant effects on gender roles. New challenges have been created for governments, businesses, healthcare delivery systems, and families. Gender and diversity is emerging nationally as a focus of a growing body of interdisciplinary knowledge warranting a degree curriculum. No institutions in North Carolina offer a similar master's degree, and it is anticipated that this degree will develop into a national model. Job market research indicates that graduates of the program will be employed in government, health care, non-profit organization and business settings. It is expected that by the fourth year, 10 full-time and 8 part-time students will be enrolled in the program.

Resources

No new state resources are requested. The program will be funded from enrollment increase funding, reallocation of internal resources, and grant funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Arts degree in Women's and Gender Studies (CIP 05.0207) at UNC Greensboro effective August 2006.