

APPENDIX N

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts degree in German Studies The University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Introduction

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Arts degree in German Studies (16.0501) on July 8, 2003.

Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts in German Studies is designed to provide a rich offering of interdisciplinary courses, as well as German language courses. The proposed degree program in German Studies would be unique in the UNC system. Traditionally, a major distinction between a degree in German and a degree in German Studies has been that many of the interdisciplinary courses are taught in English. The proposed degree program will utilize the UNC system-wide resources of the UNC German Studies Consortium and the UNC EP Baden-Wuerttemberg Exchange Program. The uniqueness of the proposed degree program is that it offers an opportunity to provide a German Studies program, employing the cooperative ventures of the UNC system, to increase the number of German majors in North Carolina, without requiring additional resources at UNCW or other consortium institutions. Students, for example, will have the opportunity to take intensive language courses and business courses in German at the Hochschule Bremen under the supervision of UNCW language and business faculty.

The B.A. in German Studies will be administered by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts & Sciences at UNCW. The faculty in the Consortium across the state will cooperate in curriculum development, coordinate joint study abroad activities, and share pedagogical and methodological techniques. Course offerings will be determined at least one year in advance. There are plans to jointly seek grants and to engage in state-wide community outreach.

The proposed German Studies degree would require 36 semester hours of German Area Studies combined with a focus on German language fluency. All major courses will be conducted in German. In order to complete the program successfully, students must demonstrate German proficiency in their senior year by taking a national standardized test. An array of elective courses offered on campus and through the Consortium will furnish the opportunity for students to choose either a particular disciplinary concentration or a range of subjects within the field of German Studies. Because of the innovative nature of the German Studies degree program, UNCW will evaluate the program in three years to determine if it is developing as anticipated.

Program Need

In 2000, North Carolina was the home to more than 160 German-owned companies. There is a significant focus in North Carolina to develop a more global orientation so that the state's workforce will stay competitive. A global orientation insures that North Carolina will expand its markets for the state's industries.

In 2003, Chancellor DePaolo identified internationalization as one of UNCW's strategic directions. The proposed degree in German Studies promotes the strategic direction of internationalization and contributes to the preparation of students for a global economy. While there are currently 6 students interested in the proposed program, there are 20 students who are minoring in the German. With five-junior level students participating, UNCW has been an active participant in the UNC-EP Baden-Wurttemberg exchange program. As a single institution, UNCW does not have enough demand for a German Studies program to request new resources for this program, but statewide it is projected that there will be a growing demand for such a program. By its fourth year, the proposed program is projected to enroll 12 students.

Resources

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in German Studies is cooperative in order to employ resources efficiently. It is the first degree at UNCW that is grounded in a collaborative agreement with six UNC campuses. Resources will be shared; no new resources are requested to implement and maintain this degree program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish the Bachelor of Arts in German Studies at The University of North Carolina at Wilmington effective August 2005.