

APPENDIX I

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Justice Studies at Winston-Salem State University

Introduction

Winston-Salem State University notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Justice Studies (43.0104) on June 19, 2004. The university now requests approval to establish the program in August 2005.

Program Description

Justice Studies is an interdisciplinary program that encompasses disciplines in the humanities and social sciences that are relevant to an understanding of justice, law, and crime. The educational objectives of the program are to provide a broad understanding of criminal, juvenile and civil justice; to ensure that students have a thorough understanding of the theoretical foundations of the society's approach to the control and treat of crime and juvenile delinquency; to equip students with knowledge and skills necessary to occupy positions of leadership in public and private criminal justice agencies; to produce students who will seek graduate and professional degrees in criminal justice or civil law; and to produce students who will be creative problem-solvers in the field of criminal, juvenile and civil justice. Courses from political science, sociology, criminal law, philosophy, history, psychology, statistics, and research methods that contribute to an understanding of justice and related issues will be an integral part of the program.

The bachelors in Justice Studies will include research and internships as important mechanisms to help students deepen their theoretical and practical understandings. Students in the Justice Studies program will have access to the Center for Community Safety, a public service center on campus, whose primary goal is to promote the use of strategic analysis in creating safer, more stable communities. The center is also committed to creating a new generation of criminal justice practitioners who understand justice from a broader, strategic perspective.

Program Need

The mission of Winston-Salem State University is to offer excellent academic programs with a strong liberal arts foundation. Moreover, WSSU strives to offer quality academic programs that are responsive to community and regional needs. According to data from various labor projections, the Bachelor in Justice Studies would produce high – demand graduates. The North Carolina Occupational Trends lists careers in justice related areas as among the fastest growing occupations in North Carolina. Both Guilford Technical Community College and Forsyth Technical Community College have criminal justice programs with approximately 200 students each.

There are currently 13,970 persons employed in justice-related occupations in North Carolina, and that number is expected to have an annual increase of 2.1%, according to the North Carolina Community, Social Service & Legal Occupations. By its fourth year of operation, WSSU projects that 85 students will be enrolled in the Justice Studies program.

Resources

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the program in Justice Studies, many of the courses are already available at WSSU. The proposed program will be supported from enrollment growth funds and from grants.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve WSSU's request to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies, effective August 2005.