

APPENDIX L

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary European Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Introduction

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Arts degree in Contemporary European Studies (05.0106) in October 2003.

Program Description

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary European Studies will build on UNC Chapel Hill's strength in European Studies. The degree program will be housed in The Center for European Studies; it has been rated as one of the top three centers for the study of Europe in the nation. The Center funds research on what it terms the "new Europe," and it seeks to disseminate knowledge on Europe in the Bachelors in Contemporary European Studies by engaging undergraduates in the study of Europe through a combination of coursework, use of European languages, and interactions with a community of Europeanist faculty and graduate students. Students majoring in Contemporary European Studies will have a primary major in an academic department; the curriculum is designed as a second major for students who wish to deepen their understanding of the issues and events currently shaping Europe.

The goal of the Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary European Studies is to provide a structured undergraduate program on the politics, economics, society, and culture of Europe. The Contemporary European Studies curriculum focuses on three thematic groups: European integration, European history and culture, and European arts and literature. Each of these themes is interdisciplinary and builds on courses in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and modern languages. Majors are required to complete six semesters of a European language, so that they can operate effectively when abroad and conduct undergraduate research in the second language. Students will also be encouraged to study abroad or participate in a series of Languages Across the Curriculum courses. Thus, students will study contemporary Europe in an inter-disciplinary framework using the appropriate language. Students graduating from the Contemporary European Studies program will be prepared to function effectively in transatlantic contexts and will be well-prepared to continue graduate studies. (UNC Chapel Hill also houses the Transatlantic Masters Program in the Center for European Studies).

Program Need

The Bachelors of Arts in Contemporary European Studies applies the principles of the new undergraduate curriculum that will be implemented at UNC Chapel Hill in Fall 2006. The Contemporary European Studies program includes key "distributive," "integrative," and "cluster" courses as outlined in the new undergraduate curriculum design. Moreover, the proposed major fits the institutional mission of UNC Chapel Hill; it builds on the institution's strength in European languages and key disciplines such as history, political science, sociology, and anthropology. The Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary European Studies integrates undergraduate study with faculty, graduate student research, and encourages communication and involvement among teacher-researchers in the Center for European Studies.

There are numerous reasons for North Carolinians, particularly future leaders, to be educated on contemporary Europe. The European Union is the United States' largest trading partner. US trade with EU in 2001 exceeded \$537 billion, and EU is the largest foreign investor in North Carolina with \$20.8 billion invested here in 2000. Nearly a quarter of a million jobs in North Carolina (2001) depend on trade with EU. Most North Carolinians, however, do not possess current knowledge of contemporary European nations. No other UNC university offers a major

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in European Studies; only 22 schools in the United States offer a major in European Studies. This would be one of the first degree programs in contemporary European studies.

Extrapolating from majors in three other international programs, there is a projection that there will be 40 majors in four years.

Resources

The Center for European Studies has been federally funded through 2006, and they have funded the development of seven new courses on contemporary European issues, in the past year. The Center is also a European Union Center funded by the European Commission. It is estimated that that there are about 250 faculty teaching and researching on modern Europe at UNC Chapel Hill. The Center employs video-conferencing and web resources to share special speakers nationally. The Center for European Studies is one of several international programs scheduled to move into a new campus Global Education building which will include a video-conferencing facility. The proposal estimates that resources will be sufficient for the major.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary European Studies effective August 2004.