

APPENDIX G

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

Introduction

Winston-Salem State University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Studies (CIP# 51.2310) on May 8, 2002. The university requests authorization to establish the program in January 2003.

Program Description

Rehabilitation services may be defined as comprehensive professional assistance provided to persons with disabilities to achieve a vocational outcome and/or independent living focus. Graduates of this program will be prepared for graduate work in this field and will have job opportunities as a rehabilitation specialist, rehabilitation technician, case manager, employee assistance counselor, vocational caseworker, work adjustment trainer, or job placement specialist. The program will focus on individuals with disabilities and those from ethnic minority groups. The curriculum is based on recommendations from the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, the Council on Rehabilitation Education, and input from the WSSU Rehabilitation Studies Task Force. The proposed program will be located in the Department of Physical Education and will share facilities and resources with the existing Therapeutic Recreation program.

Program Need

The need for professionally trained individuals from culturally diverse backgrounds is acute and growing in the rehabilitation field. The state plan initiated by the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation includes procedures to identify and serve minority individuals with the most severe disabilities, and this program will help meet the state's needs by increasing the number of trained personnel providing services to these individuals. The NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation also projects that a large percentage of current rehabilitation counselors will be retiring over the next decade. Regional reports indicate that the demand for qualified personnel far outweighs the supply. It is anticipated that the program will enroll 30 full-time and 6 part-time students by the fourth year.

Resources

New funding will consist of enrollment increase funds, external grants, and internal reallocations; no other state funds are requested. WSSU has received a grant from the US Department of Education from funds that support new rehabilitation training programs. The grant award of \$466,768 over five years will provide funding for a program coordinator, a national consultant, additional faculty, an assistive technology laboratory, and scholarships and academic support.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Studies at Winston-Salem State University effective January 2003.