

APPENDIX K

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Social Work Degree at North Carolina Central University

Introduction

North Carolina Central University notified UNC-GA of its intent to plan a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree (CIP 44.0701) in July 2006. NCCU requests authorization to establish the degree effective August 2008.

Program Description

The MSW program will consist of 62 credit hours distributed among the foundation/core and advanced levels. The advanced level will offer two concentrations, Direct Practice and Management & Community Organization. Within the concentrations, students will focus primarily on juvenile justice, and will complete a research project on juvenile justice in their selected concentration. This emphasis will be unique among social work programs offered by UNC campuses. Joint teaching, research, and the student field practicum will be shared between Social Work and Juvenile Justice programs. The MSW program will also develop collaborative teaching efforts with Environmental Sciences and Geography in the use of GIS. Students will be provided with the skills to promote social change and to implement a wide range of interventions that further the achievement of individual and collective social and economic justice.

Program Need

The city of Durham, like many urban areas, has experienced significant out-migration of middle and upper class populations, both black and white. Given these trends NCCU is now situated in an inner-city environment surrounded by at-risk populations because of minority status and economic needs. The area is also experiencing an increasing level of juvenile crime, gang violence, school drop-out, and family dysfunction. Because of these societal issues, there is an increasing need for professionals in the juvenile justice area with social work knowledge and practice skills. There has been an average of 18 inquiries a month about the availability of a program, and a survey of 20 public agencies in surrounding counties suggests a strong student demand for a MSW program at NC Central University.

Resources

The program will need three additional tenure-track faculty to meet the 15/1 student-faculty ratio required by the Council on Social Work Education. These positions will be funded with enrollment increase funds. The program will require space reallocation in the Edmonds Classroom Building, which is currently being upgraded for electronic classrooms.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the NCCU request to establish the Master of Social Work degree (CIP 44.0701) effective August 2008.