



The University of North Carolina

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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Central University

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State University
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and, Programs

FROM: Alan Mabe *AM*

DATE: October 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Another Program for Consideration in the Transitional Period for Academic Planning

General Administration is working with campuses to establish new targets for the number of teacher education graduates. Three pathways will be used to increase the number of teachers our programs produce: traditional teacher education majors, alternative entry students, and Masters of Arts in Teaching students. Several campuses have MAT programs but North Carolina State University does not. It will provide other options for producing teachers, and in this very populous area of the state it will very likely be a successful option.

North Carolina State University wants to start a Masters of Arts in Teaching in January 2009. Doing this clearly fits with the UNC Tomorrow recommendations to produce more and better teachers and improve public schools. So we are asking the Committee to consider another proposal during the transition period since it is so important for our teacher education initiative.

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree at North Carolina State University

North Carolina State University requests authorization to establish a Master of Arts in Teaching degree (CIP 13.1299) effective January 2009.

Program Description

The proposed Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is designed for post-baccalaureate students who do not hold a teaching license. The 15-month full-time professional education program (with part-time options) enables successful completers to be recommended to the NC Department of Public Instruction for one of nine professional initial licenses and an advanced teaching license within K-12 education. More than half of the 39-42 hour program consists of courses in the program licensure concentration that includes subject matter content courses, specific methods courses, and supervised clinical experiences. NCSU proposes to offer students options of taking at least half of their courses through some form of distance education, thus serving an audience of non-traditional students who can only take courses outside of work hours or in locations near their home and work. (Thus, the program will also be authorized by General Administration as a distance education program.) It is anticipated that by the fourth year of the program, 68 full-time and 46 part-time students will be enrolled.

UNC Tomorrow Relevance

The UNC Tomorrow Commission Report notes that the Employment Security Commission estimates that North Carolina will need 34,000 additional teachers by 2014. UNC, as the State's primary producer of teaching graduates must lead in meeting this challenge. The State's shortage of licensed, well-prepared teachers has contributed to poor student performance in low-performing schools. The MAT program will provide another pathway for producing additional highly qualified, licensed teachers for North Carolina's K-12 schools. The program will also add additional future mentor teachers for students in the NC State initial licensure programs.

Resource Implications

Plans are to use a mix of tenure/tenure track and adjunct faculty for the first four years. Tenure and tenure track faculty will teach some courses through reassignment, optional overload, and during the summer. Any additional teaching faculty will be funded from enrollment increase funds as provided for in the university's budget allocation process. Most classes will be taught in off-hours, off campus, in summer, or online; thus no additional burden on facility space is anticipated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the NC State University request to establish a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree (CIP 13.1299) effective January 2009.