

APPENDIX G

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Science at NC State University

Introduction

NC State University requests authorization to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science in August 2007.

Program Description

The BS in Agricultural Science has three major components: (1) a strong general education preparation, (2) a broad background in agriculture that is supported by two areas of agricultural emphases, and (3) agricultural leadership skills that lead to success in working in teams and within agricultural organizations. The proposed program utilizes primarily existing courses offered at NCSU, with the exception of the agriculture leadership courses that will be developed as part of the program. The uniqueness of the proposed degree lies in how the courses in the agricultural content area are configured. Instead of having agriculture courses focused on a single discipline, students are given the option of selecting a minimum of two agricultural discipline areas for study, following an introduction to the broad field of agriculture through introductory courses in a variety of agricultural discipline areas.

Program Need

Agriculture is North Carolina's largest industry, employing over 20% of the total workforce of the state. Approximately 27 cents of every dollar earned in the state comes from agriculture. Yet there is a state and national shortage of graduates with agricultural degrees who are prepared to enter the agricultural industry. The US Department of Agriculture reports there will be 3,000 more jobs in agriculture than graduates with agriculture degrees during the 2005-2010 period. The agriculture industry is asking for graduates who can lead—not only those who possess personal leadership skills, but also have the ability to work in teams and understand principles of organizational leadership. Anticipated student demand is 25 new students a year with a total enrollment of 100 students after four years. The program will help NCSU serve a more diverse student population, especially with respect to expanding rural diversity.

Resources

It is anticipated that the program will require one new faculty member in its first four years, which will be funded by enrollment increase funds. Current facility space is adequate for the projected enrollments.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the NC State University request to establish a BS in Agricultural Science degree (CIP 01.0000) in August 2007.