

APPENDIX E

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts Degree in African & African American Studies at East Carolina University

Introduction

East Carolina University notified UNC-GA of its intent to plan a BA in African & African American Studies degree in January 2006. ECU requests authorization to establish the degree (CIP 05.0201) in August 2007.

Program Description

This interdisciplinary program will be housed in the College of Arts & Sciences with course work drawn from anthropology, art, criminal justice, English, geography, history, music, philosophy, political science, and sociology. The program will also include service learning and study abroad opportunities. It will offer students an opportunity to conduct research on Africans and African Americans in the oldest region of the state, which has the largest concentration of African peoples from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century. The program will provide students with the opportunity to develop a broad perspective on human values and ethnic diversity and gain an understanding of the socio-political, religious, and historical evidence related to African and African American peoples both in Africa and the diaspora communities of North America and the Atlantic world. With a comparative focus and broad multidisciplinary emphasis, the program will complement many existing programs that seek to prepare students for careers in a global world of different cultures, political systems, and economic infrastructures. Program graduates will have the skills and training necessary to work in areas such as community development, human relations, diversity consulting, diplomatic service, human resources, and government.

Program Need

The growing diversity of the US workforce requires that specialists in the above noted job areas are adequately prepared to work with people with various cultural backgrounds. Students at ECU have requested such a program for over a decade, and the program will be one component of an effort to increase diversity activities. The program will enable students to learn about Africa, one of the areas of the world that has received inadequate attention in academic programs. The program will recruit more students to the university; it is anticipated that by its fourth year, the program will enroll 32 full-time students.

Resources

Existing faculty will teach their current courses or new ones developed by their departments. Three new courses specifically designed for the program will be funded by the College of Arts & Sciences. No additional resources are required to begin the program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a BA in African and African American Studies degree (CIP 05.0201) at East Carolina University in August 2007.