

APPENDIX H

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts Degree in Latin American Studies at UNC Charlotte

Introduction

UNC Charlotte notified UNC-GA of its intent to plan a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies degree in March 2006. UNCC requests authorization to establish the MA in Latin American Studies (CIP 05.0107) effective August 2007.

Program Description

The proposed degree is an interdisciplinary program that includes the disciplines of anthropology, architecture, literature and culture, history, and political science. It also intersects with the diaspora focus of the Department of Africana Studies. Entering students will have competency in Spanish and/or Portuguese, and the degree includes additional training and demonstrated competence in these languages. The program will provide students with the skills and knowledge to understand and analyze the societies of Latin America and the Caribbean, regions of key importance in the age of globalization and mass migration. The degree combines cross-listed sections of existing courses in History and Spanish with the addition of several new graduate courses and individual tutorials leading to either an MA thesis or a comprehensive examination.

Program Need

Student expressed interest in the program and enrollment in related areas indicates a strong demand for this degree. The proposed program will be unique in North Carolina and the region. The degree will serve four important career patterns for its graduates: further graduate work in Ph.D. programs and professional areas such as law, business, and public health; employment in the public sector in agencies dealing with Latino populations, development assistance, and international programs; employment in the private sector in companies dealing with Latino populations and/or holding investments in Latin American countries; and advancement of an existing career such as teaching or foreign service. Due to increasing interconnections of the US and Latin American economies as well as the rapid growth of the Latino population in the Charlotte metropolitan area, the new degree program will serve an important need of the University and the region. It is anticipated that 18 full-time and 3 part-time students will be enrolled in the program by its fourth year.

Resources

Because the degree program is interdisciplinary, current faculty, courses, and facilities will serve many of its needs. Funding for any additional needs will be provided by the College of Arts & Sciences and through enrollment expansion funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the UNCC request to establish the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies degree (CIP 05.0107) effective August 2007.