

APPENDIX D

Request for Authorization to Establish Joint Bachelor of Arts Degrees in History, Geography, and Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the National University of Singapore

Introduction

UNC-Chapel Hill notified UNC General Administration of its intent to plan joint BA degrees in Geography, History, and Political Science (CIP 45.0701, 54.0101, and 45.1001) with the National University of Singapore in January 2006. UNC-Chapel Hill requests authorization to establish these programs in August 2007.

Program Description

The goal of the joint degree program with the National University of Singapore (NUS) is to provide a small number of highly motivated students with an expanded but carefully structured, academically stimulating program in Political Science, Economics, Geography, History, and English. (Economics and English are in the final stages of joint planning with their counterparts at NUS and will submit their majors for approval this fall.) As part of their studies, students will spend a minimum of two regular semesters or a maximum of four regular semesters at the host institution. Approximately 5-10 students will be initially selected to participate. The Joint Degree Program constitutes an enhancement of existing undergraduate majors at UNC-Chapel Hill and NUS that takes advantage of the complementary strengths of the faculty and programs at both universities. The chairs and faculty of the participating departments of the two universities have expressed their full support for the joint degree and have worked closely together within agreed-upon guidelines to develop the details and requirements of the joint majors. The Joint Degree Program is intended to be the foundation of a multi-level relationship between UNC-Chapel Hill and NUS that will also include joint faculty course development and team teaching as well as collaborative research and exchanges. Some courses will be co-taught using appropriate software and video conferencing. The joint degree program has been designed with the new UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduate curriculum in mind. All General Education requirements are retained in the joint degree. The joint degree program builds on a well-established student exchange between the two universities that sends 10 to 15 students to each campus a year and a successful summer program that sends approximately 25 students to an eight-week "Asian immersion" program. The joint degree program satisfies SACS accreditation standards.

Program Need

The joint degrees between UNC-Chapel Hill and NUS will be a significant step towards realizing the expansion of "Carolina's global presence, research, and teaching," one of the six strategic priorities stated in its five-year Academic Plan. The importance placed on internationalization at UNC-Chapel Hill is reflected in the construction of a new Center for Global Education, the creation of two provost-level positions for International Affairs, and the inclusion of international education in the Quality Enhancement Plan created for the 2006 reaccreditation review by SACS. The joint degree program will serve as a model for establishing other joint degrees with high quality institutions in other parts of the globe. The National University of Singapore currently ranks 22nd in the Times Higher Education list of the world's top 200 universities. Student interest in this opportunity may be gauged from growth of the International and Area Studies curriculum, which now has over 400 majors and is one of the

ten most popular programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. Nearly one-third of all UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduates now participate in a foreign study program, the highest percentage of any public university in the country.

Resources

No special funds will be needed for faculty or equipment. Degrees and courses already exist, and existing facilities will be used. The Global Education Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, scheduled to open in 2007, will serve as a location for UNC and NUS students to meet and study. The Office of International Student and Scholar Services and the Study Abroad Office will be located in the building. NUS offers comparable modern facilities and technology.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish joint Bachelor of Arts degrees in History, Geography, and Political Science between the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the National University of Singapore effective August 2007.