

APPENDIX H

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in Teaching at Winston-Salem State University

Introduction

Winston-Salem State University notified UNC General Administration of its intent to plan a Master of Arts in Teaching (CIP# 13.1299) in June 2005. WSSU requests authorization to establish the program in August 2006.

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program is a graduate course of study in Education designed to provide certification in either Middle Grades or Special Education-General Curriculum. The program includes coursework related to educational principles and certification as well as independent research and student teaching or clinical experience. The program will be divided into two stages. Stage One will consist of coursework designed to address the competencies for beginning teachers. Those who complete Stage One will qualify for an A-level teaching license. Stage Two of the MAT program addresses the advanced competencies for Praxis II Specialty Area Examinations and M-level licensure. Once the prospective candidate has passed the "A" level NC Teaching Licensure, the candidate can apply for full admittance to WSSU's Graduate School and move into Stage Two. The 39-hour curriculum covers learning outcomes, course content, and assessment criteria consistent with guidelines prescribed by state and national accrediting agencies. The target group for the MAT program includes individuals with baccalaureate degrees in Middle Grades or Special Education, but other candidates will have the opportunity to complete the necessary academic courses through a combination of undergraduate and graduate coursework.

Program Need

The proposed program is a response to western Piedmont school administrators' concerns about the diminishing pool of qualified teachers. They emphasize the need for a master's program that allows teachers to continue working while earning an advanced degree. Feedback from teachers and administrators indicates the need for teachers to have broader and deeper knowledge in multicultural education, appropriate use of technology, and action research to improve curriculum and instruction. The MAT program will provide increased opportunities for lateral entry teachers to obtain certification and "M" level licensure. The program will also help address the underrepresentation of African-American teachers and the number who hold advanced degrees. It is anticipated that 12 full-time and 34 part-time students will be enrolled in the program after four years.

Resources

A detailed budget has been submitted for the first two years of the program showing by line item the additional costs of the program and the sources of funding for each item (enrollment increase funds). Over a period of four years, two additional faculty will be hired for the program. Current facility space and technology resources are adequate to support the program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors authorize Winston-Salem State University request to establish a Master of Arts in Teaching (CIP# 13.1299) effective August 2006.