

APPENDIX Q

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in Ethics and Applied Philosophy at UNC Charlotte

Introduction

UNC Charlotte notified UNC-GA of its intent to plan a Master of Arts in Ethics and Applied Philosophy (CIP# 38.0103) in April 2005. UNCC requests authorization to establish the program in August 2006.

Program Description

The general objective of the MA in Ethics and Applied Philosophy will be to produce graduates with strong foundations in critical reasoning about ethical issues and other philosophical issues of an applied nature. The program will: create a supply of graduates for a variety of positions on ethics or compliance committees in local or national businesses, hospitals, or other professional settings; prepare graduates for instructor positions at community colleges and other settings requiring a professional master's degree; and prepare graduates who pursue a PhD in Philosophy or other doctoral programs related to ethics. The Philosophy Department and the Center for Professional and Applied Ethics at UNCC have done extensive work in the ethics-related areas of health care, business, public policy, engineering, and information technology. The Philosophy Department currently offers an undergraduate major with a track in applied philosophy and a graduate certificate in applied ethics. The proposed program will help employers meet the rapidly changing demands of industry regulators, business partners, and customers as well as international business, research program, and health care issues.

Program Need

There is a growing need for ethics and philosophical training to face new challenges encountered in business, medical associations, national and international contexts, and education. There are increased expectations that domains of social life are responsive to public scrutiny and deliberation, and such processes are specific to the field of philosophical reflection. Many people are employed in various professions in NC whose daily work involves ethical or other philosophical issues (*e.g.*, compliance officers and members of ethics committees). Typically these people are trained in a particular specialty—whether medical, legal, technical, business, etc.—but not trained in philosophy. Thus they are at a disadvantage when dealing with ethical and philosophical issues. The proposed MA program will provide them with training in philosophy that is at the same professional level as their training in other specialties. By the fourth year, it is anticipated that the program will enroll 6 full-time and 9 part-time students.

Resources

The Philosophy Department received a \$25,000 grant from the Council of Graduate Schools for a Professional Master's in Ethics and Applied Philosophy with matching funds from UNCC. Current technology and library resources are adequate. The UNCC Strategic Plan includes resource allocations for one new position and four replacement positions over four years. The entire floor of Winingham Hall will be renovated in summer 2006 to provide more and better-equipped offices for faculty and graduate students.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Arts in Ethics and Applied Philosophy at UNCC effective August 2006.