

APPENDIX H

Request for Authorization to Discontinue Six Post-Baccalaureate Professional Engineering Degrees at North Carolina State University

Requested Action

North Carolina State University requests that the following Post-Baccalaureate Professional Degree programs be removed from the UNC Academic Program Inventory:

PB Prof Aerospace Engineering (CIP# 14.0201)
PB Prof Chemical Engineering (CIP# 14.0701)
PB Prof Civil Engineering (CIP# 14.0801)
PB Prof Electrical Engineering (CIP# 14.1001)
PB Prof Industrial Engineering (CIP# 14.3501)
PB Prof Materials Science and Engineering (CIP# 14.0801)
PB Prof Mechanical Engineering (CIP# 14.1901)
PB Prof Nuclear Engineering (CIP# 14.2301)

Rationale

The programs are post-baccalaureate professional degrees, originally established to meet the needs of working professionals. In 1997, NC State University revised its Master's degree programs, implementing a non-thesis MS in Engineering as a companion program to the already existing MS degree that requires a thesis. In lieu of writing a thesis, working professionals would be allowed to complete a project in the non-thesis program. This quickly reduced demand for the post-baccalaureate professional degrees as working professionals chose the non-thesis MS option. Additionally, NC State's distance education Master of Science engineering programs have grown rapidly in recent years, with five MS degrees currently available online. With the availability of non-thesis master's degree programs on campus and through distance education, the demand for the campus-based post-baccalaureate professional degree programs has diminished to the point where NC State University believes there is little justification to continue them. No new admissions have been approved for several years and there are no graduate students left in any of the programs.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to discontinue the above professional degrees at North Carolina State University effective June 2004.