

APPENDIX M

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science/Studies at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Introduction

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a new degree program in Environmental Sciences/Studies (CIP 03.0104) on June 5, 2003. UNCP seeks authorization to establish the degree program effective August 2004.

Program Description

The Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science/Studies is designed to provide graduates with knowledge and skills in the vast array of environmental issues facing the world today. In addition to studying the political, legal, ecological, biological, and social issues relevant to environmental science, students will gain practical internship experiences including techniques for collection, analysis, and interpretation of data used in assessing the magnitude of the environmental problems and in developing possible solutions. Graduates will be prepared for entry level positions with government, private industry, or further study in graduate school. Moreover, the Environmental Sciences/Studies programs will strengthen some academic departments by requiring their departmental courses for majors. The environmental sciences/studies program is congruent with the university's strategic and enrollment plans, and it will contribute to the economic growth of the region.

Program Need

The Environmental Science/Studies program fills a need for those seeking preparation in the field. Student interest in the Bachelors of Science in Biology, with a concentration in Environmental Science has grown steadily for the last four years. The proposed Environmental Science program would build on this student interest, and it would be the only program of this discipline within 80 miles of UNCP. Recent UNCP graduates have indicated a need for more environmental study to qualify for entry level positions. Enrollment estimates predict that the program will enroll as many as 60 majors within next five years, similar to other University environmental sciences programs.

Resources

The new program will enhance existing facilities through the purchase of new equipment funded by a three year focused growth grant. Further, the proposed degree program would strengthen the Biology, Chemistry, and Physics departments, since majors will be required to take their courses. Additionally, UNCP is acquiring land to support the future growth of the program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science effective August 2004.