

APPENDIX H



The University of North Carolina

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MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

From: Molly Corbett Broad

Re: Admission of Engineering Students at NCA&TSU

During the past few months I have had ongoing conversations with Chancellor Jim Renick about his priorities for NCA&TSU, and he identified as his single highest priority maintaining the institution's leading national role in the production of undergraduate African American engineering majors. As we discussed the situation, it became clear that the overriding impediment to this success is the limitation on the percent of freshman from out-of-state that the University is able to admit to its engineering program.

Enrollment management is difficult in the best of circumstances; however, it is made more difficult when there is national competition for the best students and a campus is limited in its ability to compete. This is the case when highly qualified non-resident students must be placed on waiting lists until it is clear that the admission of small numbers of additional students won't jeopardize funding to the campus as a result of the penalty for exceeding the cap on out-of-state students.

As a focused growth institution, NCA&TSU has the capacity to enroll more students than apply from North Carolina, but it cannot use that flexibility to increase the quality and size of its entering class by admitting more of the prospective engineering students applying from other states. If an exception is granted to NCA&TSU, that campus will be able to admit the best students from the pool of non-resident applicants to its engineering program without fear that those students will be lost to other states. In the end, a strong group of students results in an environment for teaching and learning that affects the quality of faculty interested in the campus, these faculty secure grants to support the academic mission, and the campus has the capacity to fulfill its historic mission.

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Chancellor Renick discussed his request with the Administrative Council, and his proposal was endorsed by all of the chancellors. In the attached statement, he makes a strong case for a limited exception to the 18% non-resident policy, and I support his request. He has provided compelling evidence and his proposal outlines criteria that clearly limit the request to meet specific needs of the University and of North Carolina:

- No North Carolina applicant who meets the minimum admission requirements will be turned away
- The exception applies to only one discipline—engineering
- Out-of-state students will pay non-resident tuition
- North Carolina needs more engineers and highly-trained professionals to support economic development
- Research demonstrates that out-of-state students are likely to remain in North Carolina if they received a degree here and if jobs are available
- The competitors for students interested in NCA&TSU do not have quotas for non-resident students.
- The Board of Governors has once before granted an exception (for the NCSA) based on academic mission and a desire for high quality students.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

# NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

## A Modest Proposal to Ensure the Production of Engineers – Especially African-American Engineers –

### THE CONTEXT

1. There is an urgent need for more African-American engineers.
2. North Carolina A&T graduates more African-American engineers & technologists than any institution in America. (There are only 12 HBCU accredited engineering programs in America.)
3. As the nation's top-producing university for the graduation of minority students in engineering, we are a national as well as state resource for closing the digital divide between African-Americans and whites. As such, we attract engineering students from a national as well as state pool.
4. Non-resident students are not taking the place of North Carolinians at North Carolina A&T. As a state-assisted institution, we recognize the need to educate North Carolinians first. This practice is one that we have always followed, and we will continue to follow. In fact, access for North Carolinians has been and will continue to be a central aspect of our mission.
5. Non-resident demand is a direct result of the historic inability of African-American engineering graduates to be employed in technical fields in North Carolina, thereby necessitating their need to move out of the state. These alumni are now encouraging their offspring to attend North Carolina A&T. This fact partially explains the high out-of-state demand for engineering.

### THE FACTS

1. Every North Carolina resident who meets the minimum entrance requirements (average SAT 820 and GPA 2.0) has been admitted.
2. If the number of non-resident freshmen (352) at North Carolina A&T is examined, one finds that 163 of these students indicate engineering as their major. This number equals 46 percent of all non-resident freshmen.

3. The non-resident demand for engineering is historical as well as cultural. For example, for the past five years, the percentage of freshmen non-resident engineering majors has averaged 43 percent. As the digital divide receives more national attention, this trend is likely to increase.
4. Our freshman class totals 1,754 students including the previously mentioned 352 non-residents. If the 163 non-resident freshmen who indicated engineering as their field of study are subtracted, the ratio of residents to non-residents (1,591:189) equals 12 percent.
5. National studies indicate that students who come from out-of-state are twice as likely to stay here and become a part of North Carolina's workforce.
6. Non-resident undergraduate students pay more than four (4) times as much in tuition and required fees as resident students annually, i.e., \$10,216 out-of-state vs. \$2,294 in-state.
7. Our competitors do not have non-resident quotas.

#### A MODEST PROPOSAL

The Board of Governors exempt engineering enrollments from the calculations of non-resident freshmen students thereby ensuring that North Carolina A&T continues to be a state and national resource for bridging the digital divide.