

APPENDIX H

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts Degree in African American Studies at UNC Greensboro

Introduction

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro submitted its intent to plan a Bachelor of Arts degree in African American Studies (CIP# 05.0201) in May 2001. The university requests authorization to establish the program in April 2002.

Program Description

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies will be an interdisciplinary program that will bring a variety of approaches to bear on the history and culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora. The program will enable students to: learn about the major theories and methodologies of the disciplines represented in African American Studies; be exposed to the principal themes and issues in the history of people of African descent; acquire an understanding of African American art and literature; develop the ability to think critically about national, transnational, and global affairs; and develop a comprehensive understanding of race relations and racial conflict as a central theme in American art and literature.

Program Need

African American Studies is currently offered as a minor, and external consultants have reviewed the program positively. Core African American Studies courses have consistently met class enrollment limits or have exceeded them for several years, and there is great potential to increase the number of students enrolling in these courses. Many African American students at predominantly white colleges and universities seek to take courses that speak directly to and about their experiences. Non-African American students also seek such courses to attain a better understanding of black life and culture in an effort to foster racial harmony. Efforts have been successful in increasing the number of non-African American students enrolled in core courses. The courses also prepare Education majors for dealing with multicultural situations in the classroom. Program majors are likely to pursue career paths followed by most liberal arts majors, and there is a substantial demand for liberal arts majors in executive, administrative, and managerial occupations. Based on a survey of UNCG students, it is anticipated that after four years the program will have 65 full-time and 15 part-time students enrolled.

Resources

No new state resources are requested.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies at UNC Greensboro, effective April 1, 2002.