

APPENDIX J

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Science at Elizabeth City State University

Introduction

Elizabeth City State University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Science (CIP# 49.0101) on July 26, 2001. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2002.

Program Description

The requested BS in Aviation Science will offer a course of study that allows students a choice of concentrations in Electronics, Computer Science, and Business Administration. The program will provide students with a sound foundation in liberal education and will emphasize critical thinking and cognitive and analytical skills. Students will complete a rigorous blend of courses in mathematics, science and technology, communication skills, computers, management, and a spectrum of aviation topics.

Program Need

No comparable four-year programs exist in NC. ECSU has offered a minor in Airway Science as part of its BS in Computer Science degree for 12 years. The campus is less than one mile from the US Coast Guard Elizabeth City Air Base, which includes the Air Station, the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center, and the Aviation Technical Training Center. ECSU and the Coast Guard have agreements for aviation students to participate in aerial flights on Coast Guard aircraft and in summer internships. The proposed program will build on the existing minor and will complement and strengthen programs in technology, computer science, and business. Graduates of the program will have the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue careers in aviation-related technical and management professions in the public and private sectors. The Federal Aviation Administration and the aviation industry foresee a growing need for qualified employees with professional aviation educational backgrounds in careers such as air traffic controllers, airport managers, air carrier managers, general aviation operation manager, computer specialists, electronic technologists, radar specialists, and professional pilots. ECSU projects that program majors will increase from approximately 27 students in the first year to 50 students by the fifth year, with about half at the junior and senior level.

Resources

No new state resources are requested. All courses required for implementation of the major in each of the three concentrations are currently being taught on campus in existing programs.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Science at Elizabeth City State University effective August 1, 2002.