



The University of North Carolina

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

POST OFFICE BOX 2688, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2688

MOLLY CORBETT BROAD, *President*

Telephone: (919) 962-1000 FAX: (919) 845-9695

E-mail: mbroad@northcarolina.edu

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April 23, 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs

From: Molly Corbett Broad *M. Broad*

Subject: Establishment of the eBusiness Technology Institute at UNC Charlotte

Request to Establish

In July 2001, UNC Charlotte received authorization to plan the eBusiness Technology Institute. The planning is now complete, and UNCC has submitted a request to establish this unit as an institutional research center. The following sections briefly summarize the information provided by UNCC to satisfy the requirements of *Administrative Memorandum #373*.

Goals and Objectives

The eBusiness Technology Institute is a partnership between finance industry leaders, technology suppliers, and UNC Charlotte. Its vision is to establish the Charlotte region as a center of excellence in information technology focused on the financial services industry, the dominant industry in the region (Charlotte is the second largest financial center in the U.S.). The institute will prepare technology leaders capable of enabling the financial services community to meet technology and business challenges of the future. To do so, it will create research and educational programs characterized by applied research initiatives, world-class technology leadership, hands-on experience, and a leading-edge, targeted curriculum. The curriculum's programs will focus on the following four areas:

- Security, Privacy, and Entitlement
- Intelligent Systems
- Pervasive Computing
- Enterprise Integration and Information Environments

Relevance to Institutional Mission; Relationship with Existing Academic Units

In response to the needs of the community, in July 2000 UNCC established the College of Information Technology. The mission of the college is to add value to the University, community, and society through creative and innovative educational

programs, research, development, and application of information technology. The proposed institute furthers that mission and is one of the College's first initiatives. As an inherently interdisciplinary initiative, the institute will involve faculty and students from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, and Information Technology. The institute will provide a framework for promoting and enabling a synergy between its multidisciplinary research/educational constituents and the financial services industry representatives. No similar units exist within the University.

Anticipated Effects on Instructional Programs

The institute will significantly enhance instructional and research programs at UNCC at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It will support information technology activities in two academic departments (Computer Science and Software & Information Systems), as well as in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, and Engineering. Specifically, the institute will provide new opportunities for faculty to create courses, for students to take multidisciplinary courses and laboratories in the subject area, and for students participate in funded research programs carried out by faculty. Additionally, by increasing the visibility of its affiliated programs, the institute will allow UNCC to attract and retain qualified students and faculty. Existing degree programs that will benefit from the creation of the institute include the Ph.D. in Information Technology; Master's programs in Information Technology, Computer Science, Business Administration, and Public Administration; and Baccalaureate programs in Software and Information Systems, Computer Science, and Business Administration.

Administrative Structure

A Director for the institute will be appointed following an internal or external search. The Director will have the experience and reputation in information technology necessary to lead the institute to international reputation for excellence in the field of eBusiness Technology. The Director will report to the Dean of the College of Information Technology. An Advisory Council, consisting of senior executives from the founding partner organizations, will provide valuable guidance in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the institute's activities.

Budget and Anticipated Sources of Funding

The institute's operating budget is expected to be \$500,000 per year for its first four years of operation. Income for the budget will come from institute founding affiliate members (Bank of America and Wachovia), who will subscribe to, or contract for, the institute's services. Contributions also will be sought for non-service activities, such as graduate assistantships. Affiliate membership payments may be cash or in-kind; the latter will be allowable only if sufficient cash exists to fund operations and the in-kind gift meets specified requirements. In addition to the \$2 million provided by the affiliate members during the institute's first four years, the institute expects to receive grants and contracts for research and services from industry and federal and state government sources. During the

past five years, the College of Information Technology and its predecessor unit have received external support of more than \$5.8 million. The National Security Agency recently designated the College of Information Technology as an Academic Center of Excellence for Information Assurance Education, of only 23 such centers in the U.S. and the only such center in North Carolina or South Carolina. With this increased visibility, the institute is expected to exceed the College's track record of external funding. No additional state funding will be needed.

Space and Capital Needs

The institute currently has adequate space in the College of Information Technology for its director and staff. Over the next three years, as space needs increase, new space will become available for the institute in the Science and Technology Building, which will be completed in May 2004. The institute has no immediate needs for additional capital or resources; future needs will be met through normal University funding and external grants and contracts.

Recommendation

It is recommended that UNC Charlotte be authorized to establish the eBusiness Technology Institute.