

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Arts in Education Degree in Two-Year College Teaching: Multidisciplinary Studies at Western Carolina University**

#### **Introduction**

Western Carolina University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Arts in Education in Two-Year College Teaching: Multidisciplinary Studies (CIP# 13.9999) on May 27, 2002. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2002.

#### **Program Description**

The proposed multidisciplinary program in Two-Year College Teaching will be part of WCU's Higher Education Program housed in the Educational Leadership and Foundations Department of the College of Education and Allied Professions. The program will combine 11 credit hours in education with 24 graduate credit hours in a discipline specialty. The program's goal is to address the increasing demand for faculty in the nation's two-year colleges. The program has the potential to involve all departments at WCU that offer graduate programs in subject areas that are taught at two-year colleges. WCU presently offers MAEd degrees in Two-Year College Administration and Two-Year College Teaching with specializations in biology, English, mathematics, and physical education.

#### **Program Need**

Community colleges throughout North Carolina are experiencing increasing faculty shortages as older faculty retire, and higher education programs must be in place to prepare faculty in a number of disciplinary areas. In addition, due to more stringent accreditation requirements, many community college faculty members must now obtain an advanced degree. The WCU Higher Education Program has established strong working relationships with many of North Carolina's community colleges and has an established reputation for serving the educational needs of their faculty. WCU currently receives approximately 15 inquiries a year about Two-Year College Teaching opportunities that are not covered by the four current specialized degree areas, and WCU anticipates annual overall enrollments of approximately 16 full-time and 4 part-time students.

#### **Resources**

No additional resources are required other than the enrollment expansion funding that will accrue as the program grows. Required courses are already being taught, and the program will add only slightly to the number of students in these supporting course sections in any one semester. Current facilities and faculty are adequate.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Arts in Education in Two-Year College Teaching: Multidisciplinary Studies degree at Western Carolina University effective August 15, 2002