APPENDIX I

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and Information Systems at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Introduction

UNC-Greensboro notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Information Systems (CIP# 52.0301) in February 2001. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2003.

Program Description

The proposed degree is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Department of Accounting and the Department of Information Systems and Information Management. It is designed for students who would otherwise seek an undergraduate degree in either accounting or information systems but have a preference for combining the two disciplines. The degree is structured so that it permits efficient entry into graduate programs in either accounting or information systems. Fifteen hours of the major requirement are taught through the Information Systems and Operations Management Department and 13-14 hours are taught through the Accounting Department. A capstone course will involve field experience and case research with companies or other organizations in the Triad area. The program will be administered through the Bryan School of Business and Economics.

Program Need

Technological changes in the structure of business organizations and activities have revolutionized the informational aspects of business systems, while the traditional accounting system remains the core of these systems. In a survey of 200 Triad executives, the greatest labor need was for graduates competent in both accounting and information systems, a finding supported by national studies. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects strong demand in occupations that require bachelor's degrees in computer systems and data analysis. Annually, approximately 10-12 students at UNCG double major in accounting and information systems, and this degree streamlines the educational process for these and other students. It is anticipated that by the fourth year of the program, 25 full-time and 12 part-time students will be enrolled.

Resources

Only one new course, the capstone experience, will need to be developed. Due to growth in the areas of accounting and information systems, three faculty members with relevant expertise have already been hired, and any additional new faculty will be hired through enrollment increase funding. No other new state resources are requested.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Information Systems at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro effective August 2003.