

APPENDIX K

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies at North Carolina State University

Introduction

North Carolina State University notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Arts degree in Africana Studies (05.0201) on February 23, 2004.

Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Africana Studies is an interdisciplinary program housed in the Office of Academic Affairs and Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The proposed program is designed to provide a critical understanding of the experiences, contributions and achievements of people of African descent throughout the world. Coursework is designed to increase students' thinking and research skills to help them understand relationships between the political, social, cultural and economic developments in Africa and the African Diaspora.

The proposed Africana Studies program has a general and community studies concentration. Further, the program is anchored by four foundation courses, two service learning sequences and a capstone course which requires a student to examine a topic and present findings in both written and oral formats. Graduates of the Africana Studies program are being prepared with the necessary tools to contribute positively and effectively to an increasingly diverse society. They could pursue advanced studies in the humanities, social sciences, Africana Studies, law, or other disciplinary areas in preparation for careers in human services, education, law, business, medicine or government.

Program Need

The development of the proposed program will contribute to the increasing diverse faculty, students and areas of study at NC State University. NC State University has the largest number of African American students enrolled within the University system, who do not attend a HBCU. The proposed Africana Studies program will contribute directly to the emerging interdisciplinary and diversity agenda of North Carolina State University and the "engaged liberal arts" mission of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Africana Studies already exists at the university as a minor program. Between 2000 and 2001, the number of students enrolled in core Africana Studies courses increased from 166 to 265. NC State University projects 40 students majoring in the proposed Africana Studies program by the fourth year of the program. Undergraduate programs in Africana studies have been established by other major universities such as John Hopkins University, Pennsylvania State University, Rutgers University, University of Notre Dame, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Western Michigan University.

Resources

The proposed Africana Studies program will be housed in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and there are adequate physical facilities for the faculty, students and support staff. Current faculty resources are adequate for the program; other faculty members will be added to

the program faculty as enrollment dictates. Only two new courses are needed for the proposed Africana Studies Bachelor of Arts. The D. H. Hill library has been collecting materials in African American Studies, African studies and related disciplines for a decade. Librarians will work with Africana Studies faculty to continue to build the Africana Studies titles.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies effective January 2006.