

APPENDIX L

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Art History at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Introduction

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte notified General Administration of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art History (50.07.03) on October 10, 2005. The university now requests approval to establish the program in August 2006.

Program Description

The Department of Art is proposing to establish a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art History. The department already offers a minor in Art History, a BA in studio art, and a B.F.A. degree in Art. The proposed degree will fill an important academic niche in the region by helping students view and experience various art forms through an historical and analytical perspective. Such a degree contributes to the research focus of UNC Charlotte. Students pursuing the proposed degree program will gain competence in visual analysis, historical research, critical thinking and reading, analytical writing, and oral communication.

Students pursuing the proposed degree will study the visual cultures of human societies from the stone age to the present; gain practice applying methodological models to interpret works of art; develop strong research skills; and learn to work with museums, galleries, and other resources that collect and display images and objects. Moreover, the discipline of Art History allows students to explore and cultivate their own perspectives, values, and beliefs by examining their place in a society that is increasingly shaped by visual communications. The proposed program of study is 120 semester hours; this includes General Education requirements, 36 hours in courses approved for Art History credit, and 18 semester hours formerly in the art history minor.

Program Need

The proposed degree in Art History is consistent with the overall mission of UNC Charlotte to offer a comprehensive selection of academic majors and to develop its research capacity. Universities with more developed research agendas typically offer undergraduate and graduate degree in Art History to accommodate students interested in developing analytical visual skills coupled with historical knowledge.

The Charlotte region enjoys a substantial and well-developed arts infrastructure that includes a variety of art or art-related institutions including the Mint Museum, the McColl Center for Visual Arts, and the Light Factory. The size of the Charlotte region and the number of art venues in the region will help attract students to the proposed degree in Art History. Further, the implementation of the proposed degree in Art History will strengthen other programs in the Department of Art by attracting a variety of students (who might not desire to study a studio art). Scholarly productivity in art history will also increase with a degree program in Art History. The proposed program will also allow for collaborations among related disciplines at UNC Charlotte such as Architecture and the Charlotte Visualization Center. By the end of the fourth year, UNC Charlotte projects that there will be 24 full-time students enrolled in the program.

Resources

The proposed degree in Art History will build on the strengths of the Department of Art at UNC Charlotte. The library is adequate for an undergraduate degree in Art History. In the Spring 2007, the proposed Art History degree program will occupy newly renovated space. The proposed degree will be administered by a Coordinator who reports to the Chair of the Art Department. The proposed degree program uses existing faculty and resources that have been reallocated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve The University of North Carolina at Charlotte request to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Art History effective August 2006.