

APPENDIX D

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences at North Carolina Central University

Introduction

North Carolina Central University notified UNC-GA of its intent to plan a BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree (CIP 26.0102) in November 2006. NCCU requests authorization to establish the degree in August 2007.

Program Description

The Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences will develop a skilled workforce for the burgeoning industry of biotechnology through the Biomanufacturing Research Institute & Technology Enterprise (BRITE) Center for Excellence. The mission of the BRITE Center is to establish programs to educate and train students with scientific competency to work in biomanufacturing, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. North Carolina Central University has taken steps to establish a new Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences within the BRITE Center. This bachelor's degree program will operate from this academic department, offering initially a bachelor's of science degree and soon thereafter a Master of Science degree. The goal for enrollment is 40-60 undergraduate students for each class. Several new courses related to pharmaceutical sciences have been developed by faculty members, and students may take advantage of programs at other UNC institutions, such as the BTEC facility at North Carolina State University. The bachelor's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences was developed in conjunction with industry leaders and a broad array of NCCU faculty from the physical sciences and mathematics. It began as a concentration in pharmaceutical sciences within the biology and chemistry departments.

Program Need

North Carolina is poised to become the nation's leader in biotechnology, especially in the areas of biomanufacturing and pharmaceuticals. With the commitment of \$64.5 million by the Golden LEAF Foundation and industry to build a statewide workforce training network for the biomanufacturing and pharmaceutical industries, the State has assured companies already based in North Carolina and those that might be recruited to the state that a supply of well-trained workers will be available. The demand for new employees each year at pharmaceutical companies in North Carolina with undergraduate and graduate degrees is unmet at the present. Graduates from this program can enter the workplace competent to work on laboratory equipment and using techniques that they were trained on during their course of study.

Resources

Current resources are adequate. BRITE is funded by Golden LEAF Foundation with \$20.1 million to construct a new facility with 52,000 gross square feet. Currently, eight tenure track and two non-tenure track faculty members are dedicated solely to this program. In 2006, BRITE spent \$2 million to purchase state-of-the-art equipment.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the NCCU request to establish a BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences effective August 2007.