Situation: Winston-Salem State University requests authorization to *establish* a Bachelor of Science in Teaching degree program (CIP 13.1399). UNC-Chapel Hill requests authorization to *establish* a Master of Health Sciences degree program (CIP 51.0912).

Background: Per UNC 400.1, UNC General Administration, in consultation with the campuses, brings recommendations to the UNC Board of Governors for new degree programs that meet identified academic program needs.

Assessment: Establishment of the programs is recommended.

Action: This item requires a vote.
Request for Authorization to Establish the Bachelor of Science in Teaching at Winston-Salem State University

Winston-Salem State University requests authorization to establish a Bachelor of Science (B.S) in Teaching degree program (CIP 13.1399).

In April 2013, the Board of Governors approved discontinuation of Winston-Salem State University’s B.S. programs in Special Education, Middle Grades Education, Secondary Mathematics Education, and Secondary English Education with the understanding that programmatic elements would be combined into a single bachelor’s program. The proposed B.S. in Teaching is the resulting new program. The curriculum is organized to include the general education, professional education core, breadth area courses (multicultural education, literacy development, and curriculum and instruction), and a second course of study in one of the following areas: Middle Grades Education, English-Secondary Education, Mathematics-Secondary Education, and Special Education. The 123-129 hour program will prepare graduates to demonstrate leadership in the classroom, school and profession through a focus on instructional methods, technology integration, critical thinking, problem solving skills, and assessing student learning and progress. Students will demonstrate ethical standards, sensitivity to individual differences among learners, and reflective practice. The program will meet NCATE/CAEP standards for accreditation, including coursework and field/clinical/practicum experiences.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve Winston-Salem State University’s request to establish a Bachelor of Science in Teaching degree program (CIP 13.1399).
Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Health Sciences (M.H.S., CIP 51.0912) at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

I. Program Highlights

- Program prepares Physician Assistants (PA) for clinical practice in North Carolina
- 94 credit hours
- Two years of full-time study including summers and clinical field experience (residency)
- Aligned with Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education published by ARC-PA
- 20 students admitted each year, with 40 full-time students projected at steady state
- Partnership with United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) at Ft. Bragg to provide post-service formal medical education for military medics
- $1.2 million gift from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC for start-up costs
- Start-up costs include salary and benefits for 4 FTE faculty, 1.5 FTE SPA support staff, partial salary for a medical director, supplemental course instructors as needed, laboratory supplies, instructional equipment, marketing, travel, and annual accreditation dues. Non-personnel costs also include AHEC housing costs for students and support for community-based preceptors.

II. BOG Academic Program Planning Criteria (UNC Policy 400.1)

1. Existing Programs (Number, Location, Mode of Delivery). Fully accredited PA programs exist at Duke University, Campbell University, East Carolina University, Methodist University, Wake Forest University-Bowman Gray, and Wingate University. Per the Physician Assistant Education Association directory, Duke and Wingate offer some degree of opportunity for asynchronous learning. East Carolina University, the only other public university offering the degree, accepts 35 students per year.

2. Relation to Campus Distinctiveness and Mission. The proposed program is consistent with the missions of UNC-Chapel Hill, the School of Medicine, and the Department of Allied Health Sciences. Their missions consistently call for the development of the next generation of leaders, enhanced access to learning, and extending knowledge-based services and other resources to enhance quality of life for all people in the State. The School of Medicine mission further calls for the provision of superb care to North Carolinians and maintenance of a strong tradition of reaching underserved populations. The addition of the PA program will enhance UNC-Chapel Hill’s ability to provide health care services focused on direct patient care. This will occur through placement of PAs in clinical rotations, including in underserved rural and urban areas of North Carolina.

3. Demand (Local, regional, state). In their 2013 entering classes, Duke University, Elon University, Methodist University, and Wingate University accepted on average 5% of all applicants; this represents an excess student demand of nearly 4,000 applicants. As number of applicants continue to rise, this average percent accepted has lowered. National data from the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) show PA programs are consistently filled to near capacity. Military medics are a target audience for this program. In a 2011 national survey of
Special Forces Military Sergeants (medics), approximately 50% of the 243 respondents stated they would like to become a PA.

4. **Potential for Unnecessary Duplication.** A second PA program will increase the UNC system’s capacity for educating PAs by 63% and provide another affordable public education option in the state.

5. **Employment Opportunities for Graduates.** Historically, a lack of doctors in underserved areas first spurred the creation of PAs as healthcare extenders, and national shortages of primary care physicians persist. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment growth for PAs at 38% from 2012 to 2022, with a median annual income of $90,390 per year. Over 5,600 PAs were employed in North Carolina in 2013, according to the American Academic of Physician Assistants. The number of PA graduates from fully accredited PA programs in the state is estimated at 368, a figure far below current demand as evidenced by job postings. For example, a June 2014 search of indeed.com produced 1,927 open positions for PAs in North Carolina alone in locations ranging from large urban areas to small cities to small towns. Data indicate that medical and PA students’ choice of practice area after graduation is, in part, influenced by location of training clerkships. UNC-Chapel Hill’s partnerships with community health centers will provide ample residency opportunities in rural and underserved areas in the state.

6. **Faculty Quality and Number.** Core faculty consists of a Program Director, Clinical Coordinator, Academic Coordinator, and Primary Care Specialist; three of the four are experienced PAs and primary care practitioners. PAs at UNC Hospitals will be approved to serve as adjunct faculty as needed.

7. **Availability of Campus Resources (library, space, etc.).** No new library holdings or information technology services are needed to launch the program. First year lecture courses will be taught in a dedicated classroom in Medical School Wing B. Shared teaching laboratory spaces have been identified. Office space for the program director and principal faculty has been identified in Bondurant Hall.

8. **Relevant Lower-level and Cognate Programs.** The program will be an attractive option for students with an interest in a health professions career and a baccalaureate degree in areas such as biology, chemistry, psychology and public health.

9. **Impact on Access and Affordability.** The proposed program will provide another affordable public education option in the state. The program has identified multiple strategies to make adjustment for military experience such as gained by special force medics; for example, the Special Operations Combat Medic Course will fulfill the human anatomy and physiology requirements for admission. Given equal credentials between two candidates for admission, a candidate with military experience will be given first consideration.

10. **Expected Quality.** The proposed program builds upon existing strengths at UNC-Chapel Hill. It has been developed with considerable start-up support from Blue Cross Blue Shield and in partnership with USASOC at Ft. Bragg.

11. **Feasibility of Collaborative Program.** The program will collaborate with other Department of Allied Health Sciences divisions, as well as the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Public Health,
for some content. Although it is possible the portions of existing courses could be adapted for use in PA courses, it is unlikely that entire courses could be shared due to difference in focus, depth, and breadth of teaching objectives among other DAHS divisions. Within the UNC system, the Director of the PA program at ECU is a member of the UNC-Chapel Hill PA program steering committee.

12. Other Considerations. None.

III. Summary of Review Processes

Campus Review Process and Feedback. The proposed program was reviewed by the PA Program Leadership Team, the Department of Allied Health Sciences Academic Affairs Committee, and the Associate Dean and Chair of Allied Health Sciences. The proposal was also reviewed through the campus approval process for new degree programs, including review by the Graduate School (Academic Policy Committee and Faculty Administrative Board), Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, and Office of the Chancellor.

UNC General Administration Review Process and Feedback. Prior to UNC Graduate Council review, UNC-Chapel Hill responded to questions from UNC General Administration staff on societal demand for graduates, program title and choice of degree, admissions criteria and military audience, collaborative opportunities, enrollment projections, curricular requirements, faculty workload, and budget. The proposal was then reviewed by sixteen faculty and graduate program administrators from seven UNC campuses. Reviewers consistently noted the proposed program fit with UNC-Chapel Hill’s mission, found faculty and budget documentation sufficient, and commended the emphasis on training veterans. Several reviewers noted the overlapping nature of the roles of PAs, NPs, and MDs in primary care and raised specific concerns around the availability of clinical sites. UNC-Chapel Hill responded that the addition 20 new PAs per year would only begin to address the predicted shortage of health care providers, particularly in rural areas of the state, that are yet to be met by the various existing PA and nursing programs. UNC-Chapel Hill will have plenty of clinical capacity at its hospital in Chapel Hill and 8 additional hospitals around the state. Some reviewers indicated the program should attend to scholarship options and funding specific to veterans. UNC-Chapel Hill clarified that a portion of the start-up funding from Blue Cross/Blue Shield is required to be used for scholarships. Student support has also already been garnered through private philanthropy. A financial aid counselor in the Department of Allied Health Sciences is available to work with all students, include veteran and other PA students, to navigate student aid options. Finally, UNC-Chapel Hill also responded to questions around rural placements, admission criteria for veterans, and anticipated level of adjunct support.

Benefits of program approval include new capacity to meet an identified need and supportive partnerships within and outside the campus. For these reasons, we do not recommend any alternatives to implementing the degree program. By letter, the Provost has committed to provide the program specific campus based tuition back to the program and is prepared to support the program from other sources in the event that enrollment increase funding and/or differential tuition requests are not approved.
IV. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s request to establish a Master of Health Sciences (M.H.S.) degree program (CIP 51.0912) effective February 2015 for spring 2016 admissions.
Situation: UNC Greensboro requests authorization to *discontinue* a degree program.

Background: UNC Greensboro recommends discontinuation of its Master of Science in Interior Architecture degree program. The Board approved an MFA in Interior Architecture in June 2013. All students are now being admitted into the MFA and not the MS degree program. Students in the MS will be able to complete their course of study via a standard teach-out plan. Curriculum for the MS is now offered as part of the MFA. Hence, no faculty or staff will be reassigned or lost and no funding reallocated as a result of this discontinuation.

Assessment: Discontinuation of the program is recommended.

Action: This item requires a vote.
University of North Carolina at Greensboro has requested that its MS in Interior Architecture (CIP Code #50.0408) be discontinued.

Students are now being enrolled in the MFA in Interior Architecture, which was approved by the Board in June 2013. Students currently enrolled in the MS will be able to complete their program, as course offerings from the MS remain available through the MFA curriculum.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve UNC Greensboro’s request to discontinue the MS in Interior Architecture.