

APPENDIX L

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts Program in Women's Studies at the University of North Carolina at Asheville

Introduction

The UNC Office of the President was notified of the intent to plan a Bachelor of Arts program in Women's Studies (05.0207) at The University of North Carolina at Asheville August 15, 2004.

Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program at UNCA. Consistent with the growth in the discipline in Women's Studies, UNCA proposes to build its major on its long established and popular Women's Studies minor. The proposed Women's Studies program is an interdisciplinary approach that examines the role of women and gender in history, literature, society and culture using a variety of methodologies, including feminist theoretical perspectives. Graduates will be able to document women's achievements and contributions throughout history through the study of social change movements, politics and government, fine arts, literature, and social sciences.

The proposed program consists of 36 hours with a required 12 hour core in Women's Studies courses, and a community service internship. Students will be able to take electives in the departments of Sociology, Psychology, History, Political Science, and Health and Fitness. Further, the interdisciplinary study helps students to frame questions of gender and feminism in ways that promote an understanding of relations of power in multiple contexts. In addition, students may choose a major in Women's Studies as a foundation for graduate study.

Program Need

The proposed bachelor's degree in Women's Studies builds on UNCA's liberal arts mission and its attempt to connect traditional liberal arts fields through interdisciplinary studies. UNCA is moving towards a model of integrative liberal studies; the proposed women's studies major is a model for integrated liberal studies with its emphasis on interdisciplinary study, diversity, and community engagement. The ongoing study of women serves student and community needs by fostering dialogue on the experiences of women and the perspectives of women. The Women's Studies minor is the oldest of the interdisciplinary programs at UNCA and it is now in its 12th year. A survey of 247 students found that 41 respondents are interested in Women's Studies as a major or as a double major. There are currently sixteen minors in Women's Studies. It is projected that there will be 6 majors in four years.

Resources

The proposed Bachelor of Arts degree in Women's Studies will not require additional resources other than those derived from enrollment growth.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Arts degree in Women's Studies at The University of North Carolina at Asheville effective August 2005.