

2003/2004 ANNUAL REPORT
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
School of Library and Information Sciences
Durham, North Carolina 27707
Robert M. Ballard, Interim Dean

SUMMARY

Highlights of 2003/04

The School of Library and Information Sciences graduated a total of ninety-two students in academic year 2003/04. Fifty-four students were awarded the Master of Library Science (MLS) degree and thirty-eight the Master of Information Science degree. When students who earned dual degrees are added, the total goes to over one hundred. At the May graduation, eleven students were inducted into Beta Phi Mu, the international library and information sciences honor society.

Major Accomplishments for the Year were as Follows.

1. A 27 per cent increase in enrollment between August of 2003 and June of 2004.
2. Strengthening of our requirements for entry into the program.
3. Reestablishment of our student professional organizations.
4. Reestablishment of our colloquium series.
5. Improvement in customer service.

Even though the grade point average of School of Library and Information Sciences students have traditionally been the highest of any graduate unit within the University, we have raised requirements for admission. We expanded the number of our student professional organizations from one to three. We now have student groups representing the American Library Association, the American Association for Information Science and Technology and the Special Libraries Association.

One of the major goals for the year was improving student morale. SLIS began the year in August with a lunch and student orientation which was repeated at the beginning of the Spring semester in January of 2004. We reconstituted a Colloquium Series in the spring semester. Speakers were as follows: Hannah Rogers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Library, Research Triangle Park, NC, Toni Yancey, National Network of the Library of Medicine, Washington, D. C., Anne R. Kenny, Peter B. Hirtle, and Ira L. Revels, Project staff from the Cornell University Libraries, Ithaca, NY. Our increase in enrollment is partly a reflection of the fact that we have improved customer service. Using graduate assistants as well as office staff, our offices are open until seven p.m. and on Saturdays.

Personnel Changes for 2003/04

Mrs. Virginia Purefoy-Jones was appointed Assistant to the Dean. Mrs. Jones will serve in a dual capacity as Head of the School of Library and Information Sciences library. Mr. Timothy Bailey is the new Enrollment Manager. Mr. Bailey has become proficient in the use of Banner, the Enrollment Management System. He has also assisted Ms. Emma Mosby in updating policies and procedures for international student applications. In January 2003, Mr. Antonio B. Hill joined the faculty as Lecturer in Information Sciences. Mr. Hill has undergraduate and graduate degrees from North Carolina Central University. Eun-Young Yoo has been appointed to the Faculty in Library Science. Dr. Yoo has recently been awarded the doctorate by the School of Library and Information Studies of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Continuous planning, development and improvement

The School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS) operates within the framework of the university's planning and assessment system. The School's mission, goals, and objectives are consistent with the university's mission and goals and with the schedules and formats provided by the University Planning Council under the leadership of Provost Reuben and Chancellor Ammons. Within the School of Library and Information Sciences, the Interim Dean of the school endeavors to make the discussion of curriculum and other issues an on-going process. The Interim Dean actively solicits opinions from faculty, students and alumni. We encourage active participation of our students in student organizations including their Student Government Association. Through the SLIS committee structure, new proposals are brought to the faculty for discussion and approval. The standing committees are as follows: Curriculum, Enrollment Management, Facilities, and Personnel Management

Program Improvements

Beginning in January 2004, the School of Library and Information Sciences added to the number of courses offered online for both the Master of Information Science (MIS) and Master of Library Science (MLS) degrees. At the November 2003 meeting, the Academic Planning Council (APC) approved a 2+2 online undergraduate degree in Information Sciences with Wake Technical Community College. At the January meeting, the Academic Planning Council approved a campus-based undergraduate degree in Information Science. Additional beginning core courses and advanced courses were offered online in 2003/04. Distance education students are now more able to duplicate the programming offered to traditional campus students. The School of Library and Information Sciences currently has students enrolled from significant distances including one each from Germany and Japan. All core courses required for the traditional Master of Library Science degree are now available online. At the October faculty meeting, a revision of the core curriculum of the Master of Information Science degree was adopted. Names of courses were changed to match those of the model curricula proposed by the

Association for Computing Machinery. Additionally, core prerequisites were strengthened. Beginning with the spring 2004 semester, all MIS students are required to select from one of two concentrations: Networking and Communications or Strategic Management. The Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 schedules were slightly modified as compared with previous years. The changes allowed students to more easily follow a systematic schedule of courses while enrolled in our weekend and evening programs. It is now possible to obtain both the MLS and MIS degrees in our weekend and evening programs. Former Dean Benjamin F. Speller continues to work on the proposed doctoral degree in Informatics. The proposal will be presented to the North Carolina Central University Board of Trustees at the July 2004 Board meeting.

New distance education initiatives

The Bachelor of Science in Informatics will be a completely new online degree program. It will be offered in association with the North Carolina Community College Virtual Learning Associate of Applied Science degree in Information Systems. The entire program is an Internet based program. Students must successfully complete a minimum of 125 credit hours for the Bachelor of Science degree. Students may transfer no more than 64 semester hours from a North Carolina community college toward a Bachelor of Science degree.

Alumni employment

The School of Library and Information Sciences continues to monitor the career patterns and employment of its alumni. Studies have shown SLIS to have one of the most culturally and racially diverse student bodies in the United States. We are also proud of our heritage as one of two accredited historically black library schools in the United States. We continue to be a resource for employers seeking to identify minority librarians. Our Master of Information Science graduates have similarly prospered. The adverse economy of the U.S. over recent years was directly experienced by the MIS graduates as evidenced by higher than would normally be expected numbers who elected to obtain a second degree in Library Science. Throughout this time period, employment of our graduates in the traditional library endeavors continued to be strong.

Technical support

During summer of 2003, all classrooms were equipped with the most recent projectors, screens and support for PowerPoint and video presentations. All faculty have been assigned notebook computers for their professional use when away from the office. SLIS acquired the Smart Board interactive whiteboard to increase interactivity and improve communication in teaching and learning activities. The Smart Board interactive whiteboard turns any computer and projector into a powerful tool for teaching, collaborating and presenting. Assistance in funding this system was provided by the

SMARTER Kids Foundation. In preparation for establishment of an online B.S. in Information Science, SLIS installed the third-generation platform of the Blackboard management system. In the provision of online courses, teaching via the Internet, and instruction in the use of information systems online, the School of Library and Information Sciences is the unquestioned campus leader.

Appendix A

The University of North Carolina Notification of Intent to Plan a New Baccalaureate, Master's, or C.A.S. Program

THE PURPOSE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM PLANNING: Planning a new academic degree program provides an opportunity for an institution to make the case for need and demand and for its ability to offer a quality program. This notification, and the planning activity to follow, does not guarantee that authorization to establish will be granted...

Date: October 2, 2003

Constituent Institution: North Carolina Central University

CIP Discipline Specialty Title: Information Sciences and Systems

CIP Discipline Specialty Number: 11.0401 Level: B M C.A.S.

Exact Title of the Proposed Degree: Bachelor of Science in Informatics

Exact Degree Abbreviation (e.g. B.S., B.A., M.A., M.S., C.A.S.): B.S.

Does the proposed program constitute a substantive change as defined by SACS? Yes No

a) Is it at a more advanced level than those previously authorized? Yes No

b) Is the proposed program in a new discipline division? Yes No

Approximate date for submitting the Request to Establish proposal (must be within one year of date of submission of notification of intent to plan): August 14, 2003

Proposed date to establish degree: month January year 2004

(Date can be no sooner than six months after the date of notification of intent to plan and must allow at least three months for review of the request to establish, once submitted.)

1. Describe the proposed new degree program. The description should include:

a) a brief description of the program and a statement of educational objectives

North Carolina Central University proposes to plan a new online (Internet) Bachelor of Science in Informatics as a 2+2 program with the North Carolina Community College Virtual Learning Associate of Applied Science degree in Information Systems. Because the AAS degree focuses on design and development of information systems and integration and application of information technologies, the proposed bachelor's program

at NCCU will provide a capstone information context option: policy, organization and society.

The proposed B.S. in Informatics will seek to achieve its goal of preparing individuals capable of dealing with the human dimensions of information technologies in corporate, educational, governmental, and research/scientific enterprises through the following educational objectives:

1. The proposed program will provide learning experiences that will allow students to gain skills and knowledge how people influence design, development, diffusion, use, execution and management of information technology.
2. The proposed program will provide learning experiences that allow students to understand how information technology and policy are implicated in social change and how the broad consequential effects of social changes on individuals, communities, organizations, nations, and global environments are impacted.
3. The program will provide interdisciplinary perspectives in a number of synergistic disciplinary areas so that students will acquire advanced skills and knowledge which are timely and directly related to specific information technology applications such as business, education, government, art, health, high performance computing, technologies, sciences, and others.

Upon successful completion of the subsequent two year course of study at NCCU for the BS in IS degree, graduates will be able to:

- Assess the special information needs of a particular group of users and relate timely solutions towards issue resolution.
 - Demonstrate an understanding of users, organizations and society in relating their influence on the development and use of information technology.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of economic, cultural, legal, ethical and social issues that may emerge from an ever-increasing reliance on information and communications technologies.
 - Analyze the laws and public policies in the areas of privacy, intellectual property, ownership, censorship and telecommunications policy.
- b) the relationship of the proposed new program to the institutional mission and how the program fits into the institution's strategic plan

The proposed degree program is in keeping with NCCU's mission "to produce civic and professional leaders who promote social responsibly and advance the welfare of the diverse people of North Carolina, the United States and the World." The proposed degree program is highly consistent with the three interrelated strategic initiatives of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and North Carolina Central University:

- 1. Access: Ensure access to higher education for all qualified citizens and embrace vision of lifelong learning.**

- Facilitate educational access through effective use of information technology to provide distance education courses and programs and to promote inter-institutional collaboration in course and program delivery.

2. Intellectual Capital Formation: Through excellent graduate, professional and undergraduate programs, develop an educated citizenry that will enable North Carolina to flourish, particularly in the burgeoning technology environment.

3. Transformation and Change: Use the power of information technology and more effective educational, administrative, and business practice to enable the university to respond to the competitive global environment of the 21st century. more effective educational, administrative, and business practice to enable the

- Implement the recommendations of the Information Technology Strategy (ITS) emphasizing initiatives teaching and learning with technology and distance education

c) the relationship of the proposed new program to other existing programs at the institution

North Carolina Central University intends to offer its degree program initiatives in Information Science and Technology through the School of Library and Information Sciences. The School is currently a graduate level professional unit that has developed a national reputation for offering a strong Master of Library Science degree program, with a focused emphasis on cutting-edge technologies, policy and societal concerns. The School is internationally recognized for its early pioneering integration of computer technology into its curriculum. The School is also recognized for its efforts in developing degree programs and curricular offerings both off-campus site based and online within the frame of a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach with East Carolina University and Appalachian State University.

In 1990, the School established an interdisciplinary institutional Master of Information Science, the first of its kind in the University of North Carolina system. The degree program has evolved from its first enrollment of 12 students to a current enrollment of 108 students. The School awarded its first Information Science degree in 1993. Since 1993, the School has awarded more than 130 graduate degrees in Information Science. This program is very significant for this School because the majority of students enrolled are African American. African Americans, nationally, are underrepresented in the information sciences and technology professions.

The addition of the proposed online B.S. degree in Information Sciences will provide students throughout the rural and remote area of North Carolina that are currently matriculating in the online applied degree program in Information Systems an integrated and consistent means to continue a course of undergraduate study without the need for interruption due to distance. The addition of the B.S. program particularly one founded

on a collaborative and interdisciplinary legacy will also reinforce both the perceived and actual recognition of the School by students, professionals and business.

- d) special features or conditions that make the institution a desirable, unique, or appropriate place to initiate such a degree program.

Since its' beginning in 1939, the School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina has focused its efforts on ensuring quality educational access to students who can not afford to matriculate in regular on-campus full time degree residence programs. The School has maintained its reputation in meeting the needs of its primarily non-traditional student clientele through evening and weekend scheduling and effective use of technology for on-campus and distance education delivery. In its efforts to enhance and maintain the quality of the teaching and learning opportunities for its potential students, the School has continued to push the transformation and change envelope in use of computer and communications technologies to provide access to its programs without regard of time and geography. The proposed online undergraduate degree in Information Science continues the School's and university's history of Community outreach and collaboration across disciplines with a variety of institutions. These communications and educational strategies will allow students and teachers to work together more effectively across both distance and discipline.