



The University of North Carolina

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

POST OFFICE BOX 2688, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2688

Alan R. Mabe, *Vice President for Academic Planning*

Telephone: (919) 962-4589 • Fax: (919) 962-7139 • E-mail: mabe@northcarolina.edu

Appalachian State
University

East Carolina
University

Elizabeth City
State University

Fayetteville State
University

North Carolina
Agricultural and
Technical State
University

North Carolina
Central
University

North Carolina
School of
the Arts

North Carolina
State University
at Raleigh

University of
North Carolina
at Asheville

University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

University of
North Carolina
at Charlotte

University of
North Carolina
at Greensboro

University of
North Carolina
at Pembroke

University of
North Carolina
at Wilmington

Western Carolina
University

Winston-Salem
State University

An Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action
Employer

April 14, 2006

TO: Chancellor Steven Ballard
Provost James Smith
Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Michel Lewis

FROM: Alan Mabe

SUBJECT: Proposal to Plan a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree Program

Your proposal to plan a Doctor of Dental Surgery program will be presented to the Graduate Council on April 20, 2006. Our review process has raised some issues that you may want to address. As with other planning proposals we have secured two reviews of your plan for a new dental school.

Both reviewers thought the proposal was an innovative response to a clear need for more dentists in North Carolina and for more dental services in the rural areas of the state. They were also very supportive of the collaboration with UNC-CH in the development of a new facility at ECU and outreach clinics and the expansion at UNC-CH. I think each would like more details of that collaboration in the proposal, but I think readers can be referred to the Plan for Dentistry in North Carolina which was jointly proposed by the two schools and approved by the BOG.

One reviewer thinks that an appropriate pool of applicants will be available for this proposed new school, but also thinks, given the national shortage of dental faculty, that special efforts will need to be taken to make sure faculty can be secured.

Another set of comments were directed at the community-based educational and service clinics. A key decision will be whether these are stand-alone clinics or whether they will be developed in conjunction with other regional health care centers. There are arguments for both options and these would need to be weighed carefully. The right business plan for these clinics will be extremely important and ECU needs to bring the best national thinking to bear on how these clinics can be most successful.

One of the readers points out another library resource, the AHEC Digital Library, which contains a very large collection of dental holding. It may be more economical to use this source for holdings not current available in ECU's digital library holdings.

I might add a theme that we all heard in the Educational Planning Committee's deliberation regarding the Plan for Dentistry in North Carolina: that due attention be given equally to rural western regions of the State where many of the deficiencies documented in the eastern part of the State are also present. The document is consistent in its reference to rural areas (with some possible attention to urban areas) but several Board members reiterated the importance of acting on that emphasis in regard to the western region.

The proposal will be sent to the Graduate Council along with a copy of this letter. We have also provided the Council with a copy of the Plan for Dentistry since it sets the stage for the ECU proposal. We invite you to address the concerns in this letter and any other matters that you may have considered subsequent to submitting the proposal. If you do so prior to the meeting of the Graduate Council, we will provide copies to members.

We look forward to the presentation of this proposal by representatives of the university at the meeting of the Graduate Council on April 20, 2006 beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the General Administration Building. Your graduate dean should arrange for representatives of the program to make the presentation.

In the meantime, if we can be of assistance or respond to any concerns please let us know.

Cc: Dean Paul Tschetter
Associate Vice Chancellor for Oral Health Gregory Chadwick