



Office of the Dean

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Rose Allen, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee

**FROM:** Alan R. White, Dean 

**DATE:** February 1, 2012

**RE:** Support for the Proposed Master of Community Planning

Harriot College of Arts and Sciences strongly supports the Notification of Intent to Plan Document for a Master of Community Planning degree that is currently being put forth by the Department of Geography. This proposal makes a very strong case that there is societal need for this program, demonstrating that it would promote the North Carolina University system's mission as put forth in UNC tomorrow and ECU's vision for the regional transformation of the eastern North Carolina Region. There is also demand for this degree with the only other masters in planning in the state located at UNC Chapel Hill.

Harriot College has been supportive of this program since it was initially discussed a few years ago. One new position has already been allocated and filled in support of the program. Two existing positions were returned to the department for the purposes of building the existing Planning program. One of these was filled at the Associate Professor level so that the department could hire a director for Planning who would in turn spearhead the effort to establish this masters degree. This current proposal requests two additional positions for the program, one in year one (2013-2014) and one in year three. The College currently doesn't have positions to commit at this time. But this program is a priority, so as positions become available Geography will be high on the list to receive at least one in support of this program. They have also listed a need for graduate assistantships, listing a need for one in year two and increasing to 4-5 by year five. The College will be able to provide at least one of these.

Geography has carefully laid the groundwork for this program over the course of many years. The program is ready to go forward and will have the full support of the College as it goes through the curriculum process. Please let me know if you have any questions.