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SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

June 25, 2018

Dr. T. Rhett Brown
President
Wingate University
220 North Camden Street
Campus Box 3055
Wingate, NC 28174

Dear Dr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of December 13, 2017, transmitting a prospectus for the Master of Science in Athletic Training (M.S.A.T.) to be offered, effective June 2020.

The program, which is consistent with the mission of the University, will be delivered through a combination of didactic and clinical learning opportunities which will take place under the supervision of a licensed and certified athletic trainer or other licensed healthcare professional. Minimal instruction will be provided through distance education. The need for the master's degree program results from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education's indication that better outcomes are achieved at the master's level and therefore, baccalaureate's programs may not admit students into the baccalaureate-level athletic training program after the start of the fall term in 2022. Completion of a regionally and professionally accredited program entitles the graduate to sit for the National Board of Certification Exam. Passing that exam enables the graduate to attain licensure to practice as an athletic trainer in any state. Appropriate planning for the program and approval by the University's Board of Trustees were described.

Students will enter the master's degree program in either the 3+2 format or the two-year format. Traditional residential students entering as freshmen will select the 3+2 option, completing 181 credit hours in five years to earn both the existing B.S. in Exercise Science (Pre-Professional Track) and the professional Master of Science in Athletic Training degree. Students already possessing a B.S. in Exercise Science or a related field who meet the graduate admission requirements will enter the two-year master's degree program. Admission and graduation requirements for the two formats of the program were provided. The policy concerning definition and determination of credit hours was described.

The curriculum for each format, a schedule of course offerings, program goals, course descriptions, and student learning outcomes were provided. Assessment method and expected level of achievement were listed for each outcome. Methods of assessment include course-embedded measures, data from supervising athletic trainers and other healthcare professionals during clinical experiences, a capstone research project, and end of program exams. Summative data assessments were listed as well. Outcomes falling below the level will undergo a full review and subsequent report to the core faculty and the Program Director, including suggested improvement techniques to raise the outcomes measure above the threshold. The institutional process for assessment and planning was described. Oversight for the program will be provided by the M.S.A.T. Program Director who reports to the Dean of the School of Sport Sciences. Qualifications of faculty members scheduled to teach in the program appear appropriate. Students in the program will have access to both online and on-site learning resources. A list of 30 discipline-specific full-text electronic subscriptions to predominant peer refereed journals relevant to Athletic Training was provided. The library offers wireless internet with computers set up for online

research. There are individual study rooms and carrels. More than 120,000 volumes and interlibrary loan services are available as well as online research databases with 24-hour access. The library subscribes to LibGuides and the subject guide for the M.S.A.T. program already exists and was created by a Librarian in consultation with the program's faculty members. Library instruction is provided in orientation, and as a subset of the Reference Department, the Instruction Department provides access to all search possibilities within a given discipline.

Student support services available to all students include academic advising; services offered by the Academic Resource Center to include disability services, the Writing Center, and Resources for Success; assistance offered by the Office of Information Technology and the IT Help Desk; services provided by the Health Center such as counseling services; M.S.A.T. student orientation; housing services; and student activities.

The program will be housed on the main campus in the Cannon Athletic Complex which contains at least two classrooms, a laboratory, faculty offices, and a functional athletic training room which will serve as an additional practical laboratory. Classrooms contain projectors, desktop computer, and other instructional technology.

A business plan was provided indicating adequate financial resources to support the program.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Master of Science in Athletic Training degree program. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

Enclosed is an invoice for $500 to defray the cost of review of the prospectus.

Sincerely,

Belle S. Wheelan

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/ABC:iy

Enclosure

Cc: Mr. Mitchel Cottenoir, Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Crystal A. Baird