



**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** John L. D'Agati 

**SUBJECT:** Fei Tian College Master Plan Amendment to offer Master of Music (Mus.M.) in Performance and Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Classical Chinese Dance programs

**DATE:** October 6, 2016

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Fei Tian College to offer its first master's degree programs?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

**Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the full Board at its October 2016 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

**Procedural History**

Fei Tian College, Cuddebackville, NY (Orange County) submitted a proposal to register a program in Performance leading to a Master of Music (Mus.M.) degree and a program in Classical Chinese Dance leading to the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A) degree. Master plan amendment is required because these will be the College's first programs at the master's degree level.

**Background Information**

The Board of Regents granted a provisional charter to Fei Tian in 2011 and an absolute charter in 2014. The College awards the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Classical Chinese Dance and Bachelor of Music (B.M.) in Performance. The College's

mission is to “provide education of the highest caliber in a bilingual (English-Chinese) environment to talented students from around the world to enable them to become creative professionals.” The proposed programs are seen to have a positive impact on the existing bachelor level programs and will promote artistic creation and scholarship and a deeper understanding of the art forms at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Current students and alumni have expressed strong interest in pursuing advanced studies at Fei Tian.

The M.F.A. program (60 credits) assists dancers who have trained systematically in rigorous dance forms at the undergraduate level to acquire the level of artistry, knowledge, and competency to become lead or principal dancers, managers, college faculty, or researchers so they can help preserve and promote classical Chinese dance in diverse cultural settings. The Mus.M. program (45 credits) is designed for musicians who, having completed undergraduate studies in an applied instrument (Western or Chinese) or voice, are seeking further refinement in their art with an emphasis on the integration of Western classical music and Chinese music. The program seeks to prepare students for advanced study or for careers as professional musicians or singers.

Fei Tian reported an enrollment of 126 undergraduates in its 2016 application. The College anticipates annual enrollment of 15 students in the M.F.A. and 10 students in the Mus.M., with a total graduate student population of 50 after two years. Enrollment projections were developed in part based on specific requests from potential employers.

Departmental review by the Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE) determined that the programs meet all standards for registration. In addition, the proposals, and the College’s institutional readiness to offer graduate level work, have been reviewed by an external peer review team that provided positive comments. As part of the master planning process, the Department canvassed institutions of higher education in the Hudson Valley region. No objections or statements of negative impact were received.

### **Related Regent’s Items**

N/A

### **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Fei Tian College to offer a program in Performance leading to the Mus.M. and a program in Classical Chinese Dance leading to the M.F.A.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the programs.