



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
SUBJECT: Monroe College – Regents authorization to authorize the College to award the Master of Public Health degree

DATE: January 7, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S):

John L. D'Agati
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents authorize Monroe College to award the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree at the main campus in the Bronx and branch campus in New Rochelle?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its January 2013 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

In August 2012, Monroe College submitted a proposal to offer a program in Public Health leading to the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree at the College's main campus in the Bronx and branch campus in New Rochelle.

Regents authorization of the M.P.H. degree is required because the College is not currently authorized to award that degree title at the main campus or the New Rochelle branch campus.

Background Information

Monroe College is a proprietary institution founded in 1933. Its mission states that the College “provides professional, career oriented higher education to students from diverse backgrounds.” It offers non-credit and credit-bearing certificates, associate and baccalaureate programs in Business, Education, Health Professions, Humanities, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences, and master’s level programs in Business Management, Criminal Justice, and Hospitality Management.

The College seeks Regents authorization to award the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree at its main campus in the Bronx and its branch campus in New Rochelle. Regents authorization is required because the College is not authorized to award that degree. Since the College is authorized to award master’s degrees and offers baccalaureate level programs in Public Health at the main and New Rochelle campuses, no master plan amendment is needed to enter the disciplinary area at this level.

Purpose and Goals: The proposed program is designed for students interested in pursuing or enhancing a career in public health. The proposed program will prepare students to pursue careers in government agencies, academia, health care institutions, public health interest groups and non-profit organizations.

Curriculum: The proposed program requires the completion of 45 credits including 21 credits of core courses and 12 credits of courses in one of two concentrations, Community Health, and Health Administration and Leadership. A three-credit elective is also required. The first semesters of the proposed program will involve coursework, while the last semesters will be devoted to a practice-based internship (three credits) and a thesis (six credits).

Faculty: Seven full-time faculty are assigned to the proposed program and are appropriately qualified. The College will hire two additional full-time faculty members to support the proposed program.

Admissions: Applicants must possess a bachelor’s degree in a social science or liberal arts field with an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Students: The College anticipates enrollment of 60 students in the first year of the program and 270 by the fifth year of the program.

Academic Resources: The libraries at the College house the resources necessary to support current undergraduate programs in Public Health and Health Services Administration and the proposed program. Students will have access to the College’s Learning Resource Centers and Writing Centers.

Need: The following information comes from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook:

Career area	Annual Median Pay	Job Outlook 2010-2020	Employment Change 2010-2020
Medical and Health Services Managers	\$84,270	22% (faster than average)	+68,000
Health Educators	\$45,830	37% (much faster than average)	+23,200
Epidemiologists	\$63,010	24% (faster than average)	+1,200

Department Review: The external reviewer commented that the proposed program has a “sound existing infrastructure for development and implementation” and a focus on “addressing critical health care and public health needs related to urban health concerns.” The Department has determined that the proposed program meets registration standards.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize Monroe College to award the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree. If the Board approves this Regents authorization, the Department will register the program and the College will proceed to recruit and enroll students.