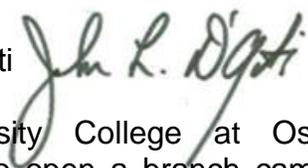




**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

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

**SUBJECT:** State University College at Oswego: Master Plan Amendment to open a branch campus in Syracuse and Regents Authorization to award a range of undergraduate and graduate degree titles at the branch

**DATE:** January 5, 2015

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

#### **SUMMARY**

##### **Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

The State University of New York seeks approval for a master plan amendment to establish a branch campus for the State University College of Oswego in Syracuse and Regents authorization to award the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Science (M.S.), Master of Science for Teachers (M.S.T.), Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degrees at the branch campus.

##### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State regulation

##### **Proposed Handling**

The question will come before the full Board at its January 2015 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

##### **Procedural History**

The State University College at Oswego is seeking a master plan amendment to establish a branch campus at the Metro Center, Two Clinton Square, Syracuse, NY, about 42 miles from the Main Campus in Oswego. The location has been in operation since 2008 and was approved as a registered extension center in 2010. The Metro Center currently offers an alternative location for students to take courses that apply to selected degree programs on the Main Campus.

## **Background Information**

The College is requesting to expand offerings at the Metro Center to branch campus status by offering complete master's degree programs in Business Administration, Childhood and Adolescence Education, Mental Health Counseling, and Human Computer Interaction; graduate certificate programs in Gerontology, Play Therapy, Integrated Media & Social Networks, Health Information Technology, Integrated Health Systems, and Educational Leadership; and upper division undergraduate programs in Business Administration, Human Development, and Public Justice.

The Oswego Metro Center is designed to serve the needs of a different and expanded student body than those matriculated at Oswego's residential main campus. The Metro Center serves part-time, non-residential, non-traditional age, place-bound, predominantly graduate students who seek affiliation with a well-known high quality affordable public campus-based institution located close to their homes and work places in the urban Syracuse metropolitan area. Enrollment projections for the programs listed above were determined based on past experience, focus groups with community and business leaders, and labor statistics.

The proposed Metro Center programs are specifically designed to complement, rather than compete with, the offerings of nearby public institutions that specialize in healthcare and environmental degrees or that offer associate degrees, or nearby private institutions that serve a more affluent and less time and place-bound population.

The facilities at the Metro Center include four classrooms, one seminar room, one large training/classroom space, a small meeting room, a formal conference room, a commons area for students to meet that includes two computer stations, and office space for visiting faculty and administrators. The Metro Center is a wireless facility that also provides access to course-specific software through a virtual computer lab. In addition, two classrooms feature electronic whiteboards, while another offers videoconferencing with a paired unit on the main campus. Students engaging in research for courses and projects have access to the holdings of Penfield Library and the SUNY library system using technology as well as in-person librarian assistance.

Oswego's Division of Academic Affairs has full oversight of the Metro Center operations and academic programming. The key administrative personnel at the Metro Center include a full-time director, a professional staff member with student advisement and facility management experience, and an administrative assistant. Additional staffing includes faculty advisors, graduate assistants and a full-time professional staff member for evening and weekend coverage that provides student concierge services.

The programs proposed to be offered at the Metro Center are identical to programs offered at the Main Campus. Each program coordinator is a full-time faculty member from the main campus, assisted by additional full-time and adjunct faculty selected using the same criteria as the main campus. All faculty teaching credit-bearing courses at the Metro Center hold appropriate degrees.

Support services for students include access to key administrative offices such as the Registrar, Student Accounts, and Financial Aid through the College's online portal. Penfield Library provides online access to a wide variety of materials including research-oriented publications and databases. Students can activate their email and other technology services online, can access student service areas such as textbooks and Career Services, and will be provided regular, periodic access to in-person services.

According to SUNY, the Metro Center demonstrates Oswego's commitment to the region as an economic driver, and its involvement with a number of local organizations provides opportunities for student internships, professional development, and cultural programming. Partnerships with the city school district, community organizations, and industry have expanded Oswego's ability to serve students of color, first generation immigrants, and low-income students. Industry leaders have enthusiastically endorsed the Metro Center's program plans and branch campus proposal.

In summary, the Metro Center's proposed programming and services are strongly aligned with and supportive of SUNY's overall mission and strategic plan. The undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs prepare workers for high demand, high need occupations, improving students' lives and revitalizing the communities in which they live and work.

Following its standard protocol, the Department canvassed the degree-granting institutions in the Regents region where the proposed branch campus will be located. There were three responses: Onondaga Community College expressed interest in the proposed branch campus; Syracuse University and LeMoyne College both expressed concerns related to competition with their registered programs. Following subsequent communication between Oswego's leadership and that of the two colleges who expressed concern, those concerns were resolved.

### **Recommendation**

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the SUNY master plan for the State University College at Oswego to establish a branch campus in Syracuse, and Regents authorization to award the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Science (M.S.), Master of Science for Teachers (M.S.T.), Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degrees at the branch campus. The amendment will be effective until December 31, 2015, unless the Department registers the branch campus and its related programs prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will send it to the Governor for approval. Upon gubernatorial approval, the Department will register the program.