



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

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

SUBJECT: Renewal of Permission to Operate in New York State: New Brunswick Theological Seminary

DATE: January 11, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Margellen Elin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents renew permission for New Brunswick Theological Seminary to offer courses from its Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program and Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program at St. John's University in New York City?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its January 2018 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Background Information

New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) is a teaching institution of the Reformed Church in America, but trains persons from many other denominations for ministry. The Department first granted NBTS, located in New Brunswick, New Jersey, permission to offer courses from its Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program in Queens, NY in November 1984. Since that time, NBTS has offered courses at the St. John's University campus under terms of a written agreement with St. John's University. The stated purpose of the agreement is "to promote ecumenical cooperation in graduate theological education."

In April 2014, NBTS's permission to offer courses in its M.Div. and M.A. programs was renewed for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

Total current enrollment at the NBTS is 89; with 28 students currently taking courses offered in New York State. In 2015-16, eleven courses from NBTS were offered at the St. John's University campus, and in 2016-17, ten courses from NBTS were offered at the St. John's University campus. NBTS reports that, since 2015, 13 students have completed coursework in New York and graduated from NBTS.

Students may complete their degrees entirely in New York by enrolling as visiting students at St. John's University for their remaining elective credits, or take some classes at the main campus in New Jersey to complete their studies.

St. John's University provides two classrooms, physical space, and administrative assistance for NBTS's director, academic and career advisement to supplement that provided by NBTS, student mailboxes, and parking. Students have access to the St. John's University library, its wireless internet services, reserve materials, and information literacy instruction. NBTS provides interlibrary loan service and remote access to its library.

Related Regents Items

[April 2015 Regents Item](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/meetings/Apr%202015/415brca5.pdf)

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Recommendation

VOTED, that the Board of Regents renew the Permission to Operate for New Brunswick Theological Seminary to offer courses from its Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program and Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program under the terms of its agreement with St. John's University. This permission, effective retroactive to January 1, 2018, is granted for a period beginning January 1, 2018 and extending through December 31, 2022.

Timetable for Implementation

Subsequent renewals of this permission to operate, if sought, will be subject to the terms of Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. If New Brunswick Theological Seminary seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term it must notify the Department no later than December 31, 2021.