



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

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

SUBJECT: St. Francis College: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program

DATE: December 1, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Mary Ellen Ecia*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for St. Francis College to offer a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Creative Writing program?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

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

Procedural History

St. Francis College submitted a proposal for a program in Creative Writing leading to a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree. The proposed program requires a master plan amendment because it would be the College's first master's degree program in the discipline of the Humanities.

Background Information

St. Francis College seeks to offer the proposed program in furtherance of its mission to "offer ample opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the intellectual, cultural and professional opportunities afforded by New York City." The program will offer three separate genre tracks: Poetry, Fiction and Dramatic Screenwriting/Playwriting. Students participate in four intensive 10-day residency

periods during the 36-credit, 2-year, 4-semester program followed by online workshops. It will be the first low-residency program housed in New York City.

The College assessed the need for this type of program through analysis of market statistics and interviews with authors. The College anticipates an initial enrollment of 15-20 students in year one and a total of 40 students by year five.

Departmental review by the Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE) determined that the program meets all standards for registration. The program also received positive comment from an external peer reviewer. As part of the master planning process, the Department canvassed institutions of higher education in the New York City region. No objections or statements of negative impact were received.

Related Regent's Items

November 2016 - <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1116bra1.pdf>

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize the College to offer a program in Creative Writing leading to the M.F.A. The amendment will be effective until December 13, 2017, unless the Department registers a program 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 register the program.