



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech 

SUBJECT: State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo:
Authorization to Award the Doctor of Social Welfare
(D.S.W.) Degree

DATE: March 1, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents authorize the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York to confer the Doctor of Social Welfare (D.S.W.) degree at State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

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

Procedural History

At its June 2017 meeting, The State University Board of Trustees adopted a resolution authorizing SUNY Buffalo to offer a D.S.W. degree.

Background Information

Paragraph (f) of subdivision (2) of §355 of the Education Law authorizes the State University Board of Trustees:

To grant all degrees, diplomas and certificates which heretofore [i.e., July 1, 1948] have been granted or have been authorized to be granted upon the completion of courses of study in any state-operated institution which now is or hereafter may be in the state university, prior to the acquisition of such institution by the state university, and also such other degrees as the regents may hereafter specifically authorize them to grant.

Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents SUNY Buffalo's first use of the D.S.W. degree title. Board of Regents approval of this authorization will allow the registration of acceptable programs leading to the D.S.W. degree.

An academic review of faculty, curriculum, and other program aspects of the proposed degree program has been completed by the Department. The Department has determined that the proposed degree program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. The University currently offers Master of Social Work programs as well as Doctor of Philosophy programs in Social Welfare.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents authorize the SUNY Board of Trustees to award the D.S.W. degree on duly qualified students successfully completing the D.S.W program at SUNY Buffalo effective March 13, 2018.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Regents approve the degree authorization, the Department will register the program and the institution will proceed to recruit and enroll students.