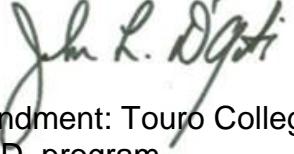




THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: John L. D'Agati 
SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: Touro College, to authorize the College's first Ph.D. program
DATE: April 26, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Touro College (Manhattan) to offer its first academic doctoral degree, a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies in the disciplinary field of the Humanities?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its May 2018 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken. The Regents will consider separately a charter amendment to authorize the College to award the Ph.D. degree.

Procedural History

Touro College has proposed a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Jewish Studies to be offered at its main (Manhattan) campus. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program would be the College's first academic doctoral (Ph.D.) degree.

Background Information

Touro College states that the proposed program is to provide graduate students with advanced academic training in Jewish Studies, with a specialization in the modern

period (sixteenth century to the present). The program is seen as a logical outgrowth of Touro's established M.A. program in Jewish Studies. The program supports a fundamental objective of the College's mission: to transmit and enrich the Jewish heritage and its tradition of intellectual inquiry. Successful graduates of the Ph.D. program will be prepared for academic careers in teaching and/or scholarship.

Touro anticipates an initial enrollment of eight (8) students, and an enrollment of 35 in year 5. Fellowship funds and teaching assistantships will be available to students. Most applicants to the program are expected to already reside in New York City, with a mean age of 28.

Thirty-six (36) credits of approved graduate coursework beyond the Master's degree will be required to obtain the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The program will draw upon the expertise of 13 current faculty members, four of whom are full-time members appointed exclusively to the Graduate School. One new full-time hire is planned upon program approval.

Staff in the Office of Higher Education and the Office of the Professions determined that the program meets all standards for registration. As part of the master planning process, the Department canvassed institutions of higher education in the New York City region as well as all doctoral institutions in New York State. Five institutions responded; there were no negative comments.

Related Regents Items

N/A

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Touro College to offer its first doctoral program in the Humanities discipline. The amendment will be effective until May 8, 2019, unless the Department registers the Ph.D. 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 upon confirmation of the hiring of an additional qualified full-time faculty member.