



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy *William P. Murphy*

SUBJECT: Hilbert College: Master Plan Amendment to Offer a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree Program in the Biological Sciences Discipline

DATE: April 23, 2020

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Sharon L. Tabor*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Hilbert College to offer its first bachelor's-level program in the Biological Sciences discipline area, a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Biology?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the Full Board at its May 2020 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Hilbert College has submitted a proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Biology. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program will be the first degree program in the Biological Sciences discipline area at the college.

Background Information

Hilbert College seeks a master plan amendment to allow it to offer its first degree program, a Bachelor of Arts, in the Biological Sciences discipline area.

The proposed program is intended to provide the credentials and skills necessary for students who wish to pursue careers in biological sciences. Students will be prepared to professionally and ethically serve the community. This 120-credit undergraduate degree program will include courses in biology, biochemistry, cell biology, chemistry, human anatomy and physiology, microbiology, molecular biology, organic chemistry, and physics. The program will build upon the current Hilbert College Forensic Science and Forensic Science: Crime Scene Investigation programs.

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. In September 2019, following its standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the Western Regent's region. One institution initially objected to the proposed program, questioning the need and demand for the program, but ultimately withdrew their objection.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Hilbert College to offer its first bachelor's-level program in the Biological Sciences discipline area, a Bachelor of Arts in Biology. The amendment will be effective until May 5, 2021, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the 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.