



**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: Biola University, Talbot School of Theology

**DATE:** July 6, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Mary Ellen Elin*  
**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents renew permission for Biola University's Talbot School of Theology to offer courses from its Master of Divinity program in New York State?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

**Proposed Handling**

The question will come before the full Board at its July 2017 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

**Background Information**

Established in 1908, Biola University is an independent, not-for-profit institution offering 145 programs from the baccalaureate level through the doctorate level to approximately 5,400 students. It is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities. Biola University's mission is "biblically-centered education, scholarship and service—equipping men and women in mind and character to impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Established in 1952, the Talbot School of Theology (Talbot School) is one of Biola University's six schools. It offers programs leading to the Master of Divinity (M. Div.), Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Theology (M.Th.), Doctor of Ministry, (D.Min.), Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. Its programs are accredited

by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. The Talbot School describes its theological position as “Christian, protestant, and theologically conservative.” Its mission statement says, “Talbot is committed to the development of disciples of Jesus Christ whose thought processes, character and lifestyles reflect those of our Lord, and who are dedicated to disciple-making throughout the world.”

On May 22, 2007, the Board of Regents granted permission for Biola University’s Talbot School to offer two-thirds of its Master of Divinity (M. Div.) program in Manhattan with the remainder of the program being completed on Talbot’s main campus in California.

In June 2012, the Talbot School’s permission to offer courses from its M. Div. program was renewed for a five-year period. During this period, the program moved from Manhattan to Brooklyn, New York. There are 15 students enrolled in the courses offered in New York State. The Talbot School is currently seeking another term of renewal of its permission to operate courses from its M. Div. program at its Brooklyn, New York location. This program has an 83% retention rate, a 44% graduation rate, and no formal complaints have been received in relation to the offering of these programs.

### **Related Regents Items**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2007Meetings/May2007/0507heppca1.html>

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/June2012/612brca4.pdf>

### **Recommendation**

The Department recommends that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents renew Biola University, Talbot School of Theology’s permission to offer courses from its Master of Divinity program in Brooklyn, New York effective retroactive to May 31, 2017 and ending on July 17, 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 Biola University seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term, it must notify the Department no later than July 17, 2021.