



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

TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy 

SUBJECT: SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Morrisville (SUNY Morrisville): Master Plan Amendment to offer its first master's level program and Regents Authorization to award the Master of Science (M.S.) degree

DATE: June 30, 2022

AUTHORIZATION(S):



SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize The State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Morrisville (SUNY Morrisville) to offer its first master's level program and authorize the institution to award the Master of Science (M.S.) degree?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its July 2022 meeting.

Procedural History

On September 29, 2021, the SUNY Board of Trustees authorized SUNY Morrisville to offer the Master of Science (M.S.) degree, subject to Regents approval. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program will be the first master's level program at the institution. Regents authorization is also required to award the M.S. degree.

Background Information

SUNY Morrisville is proposing to offer its first master's level program, a program in the Agriculture discipline leading to an M.S. in Food and Agribusiness (FAB). As described by SUNY Morrisville, the proposed program seeks to maximize social benefits from an efficient, robust, and ethical food system "by improving food and agricultural production and distribution; creating consumer value and well-being; ensuring food safety and security; and solving social and business problems. As an innovative applied learning program ..., FAB is a natural extension of SUNY Morrisville's offerings, and will continue SUNY Morrisville's success as an Agriculture and Technology institution."

FAB is a two-year, fully online graduate program comprised of a curriculum that "draws from agricultural economics, food marketing, supply chain management, organizational management, econometrics, and agriculture and food regulation and policy disciplines." Students will complete courses in Quantitative Methods; Leadership and Organizational Behavior; Human Resource Management; Food and Agricultural Policy; Food Labeling; Agribusiness Economics; Supply Chain Management of Perishable Food; Finance; and Marketing in Agribusiness and the Food System. The program culminates with an intensive Master's Project or Agribusiness Consulting practicum. FAB graduates will be able to pursue careers with agribusinesses, state and federal food and agriculture agencies, and other food system employers.

An academic review of the proposed program has been completed by the Department. The Department determined that the proposed degree program meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In May 2022, following the standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the Central Region. Of those canvassed, one positive letter of support was received, and there were no objections or statements of negative impact.

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 The State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Morrisville (SUNY Morrisville) to offer its first master's level program and authorize the institution to award the Master of Science (M.S.) degree.

Timetable for Implementation

Amendments to The State University of New York Master Plan require approval by the Governor. If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will forward the amendment to the Governor for approval. Upon gubernatorial approval, the Department will register the proposed program in Food and Agribusiness at SUNY Morrisville.