



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Elizabeth R. Berlin *Elizabeth R. Berlin*

SUBJECT: Mercy College, Manhattan Campus: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Liberal Arts and Sciences

DATE: August 29, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Mary Ellen Elin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Mercy College to offer its first bachelors-level program in the Humanities discipline area, a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Liberal Arts and Sciences, at the Manhattan Campus?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its September 2019 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Mercy College has submitted a proposal for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Liberal Arts and Sciences to be offered at the Manhattan Campus. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program will be the first bachelors-level degree program in the Humanities discipline area at the Manhattan Campus.

Background Information

Mercy College seeks a master plan amendment to allow it to offer a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Liberal Arts and Sciences at the Manhattan Campus. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program represents the first bachelors-level degree program in the Humanities discipline area at the Manhattan Campus.

The proposed program was developed in direct response to the closure of the College of New Rochelle and the corresponding discontinuance of a substantively similar program. The proposed 120-credit B.A. program is composed of core courses, English and Math sequence courses, specialization courses, milestone and capstone courses and elective courses. The program is oriented to adult learners of diverse backgrounds who want to earn a college degree and utilizes the strategic integration of adult learning theory and practice throughout its curricular design and instructional delivery model. Key learning outcomes include effective communication and critical thinking skills and an awareness of diverse cultures and viewpoints.

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 July 2019, following its standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the New York City Regents region. Two institutions responded; none objected.

Related Regents Item

N/A

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Mercy College to offer its first bachelors-level program in the Humanities discipline area at the Manhattan Campus, a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Liberal Arts and Sciences. The amendment will be effective until September 10, 2020, unless the Department registers the 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.