



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: Johanna Duncan-Poitier
Johanna Duncan-Poitier

COMMITTEE: Higher and Professional Education

TITLE OF ITEM: Master Plan Amendment: Houghton College

DATE OF SUBMISSION: February 24, 2003

PROPOSED HANDLING: Approval (Consent Agenda)

RATIONALE FOR ITEM: Regents approval of an amendment to an institution's master plan is needed when a college seeks to offer its first program within a new disciplinary area.

STRATEGIC GOAL: Goals 2 and 4

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Thomas J. Kelly*

SUMMARY:

Houghton College, Houghton seeks Regents approval of an amendment to its master plan authorizing the College to offer an athletic training program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree. A master plan amendment is needed because this would be Houghton's first program within the major disciplinary area of the Health Professions.

The Office of the Professions has determined that the proposed program, if approved, would meet the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation: I recommend that the Regents take the following action:

VOTED, that the master plan of Houghton College, Houghton, be amended, effective March 25, 2003 authorizing the College to offer its first baccalaureate degree in the discipline of health professions. The program to be offered is an athletic training program leading to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree. This amendment will be effective until March 31, 2004, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

Approval of entry into disciplinary area of the Health Professions

Houghton College, Houghton, is an independent, four-year institution that was granted an absolute charter by the Regents in 1927. Houghton offers registered programs leading to the following degrees: Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.), Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Bachelor of Music (Mus.B.), Master of Music (M.M.), and Master of Arts (M.A.). The College has requested registration of an Athletic Training program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree. This program would be the first at the College within the major mission area of the health professions.

Program

The 125 credit-hour curriculum includes a core requirement (including practica and field experiences) of 49 semester hours and 20 hours of pre-requisite and co-requisite courses. The program would also require the completion of 42 hours of Integrative Studies (general education) and 14 hours of electives. The College notes that the curriculum is designed to prepare students to complete successfully the examination of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification (NATABOC). The College has offered an athletic training concentration for many years through its B.S. degree in Physical Education.

The College plans to seek accreditation of the proposed program by the Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The program is intended to prepare athletic trainers for careers in high schools, colleges, professional teams and organizations, and related health care facilities. It is also intended to prepare students for admission to graduate studies in related fields. The program includes a focus on Christian sports ministry, by providing students with the opportunity to be involved with short-term, international missionary work.

Enrollment

The College projects an enrollment of 4-6 full-time students in the first year of the program's operation. Projected enrollment for the fifth year is 12-16 students. Part-time enrollment in the Athletic Training program is not anticipated. The College projects that slightly more than half the program's enrollment would originate in New York State, with about 15 percent of the total coming from the Regents Western Region. According to the College, prospective students are those committed to their Christian faith, to academic excellence, and to serving others with their training and abilities.

Faculty

Current full-time faculty in Houghton's Department of Physical Education and Recreation will support the proposed curriculum. Houghton College has increased, from two to three, the number of certified athletic trainers on its faculty.

Facilities

The College's athletic training room was expanded and remodeled in 2001. Houghton has allocated sufficient expenditures to support the athletic training program, including the purchase of new rehabilitation equipment, teaching charts and models, medical recording technology, and new taping and treatment tables. Budget lines have been increased to support and maintain equipment expenses, continuing education for faculty, and additional athletic training and teaching loads.

Planning Review

A canvass was conducted of all institutions in the Western Region. Of the three institutions that responded, none expressed objections or concerns.