



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

To: Higher Education Committee

From: John L. D'Agati

Subject: Initial Institutional Accreditation: Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing

Date: January 3, 2012

Authorizations:

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision**

Should the Board of Regents grant accreditation to Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State regulation.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the Higher Education Committee at its January 2012 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken. It will then come before the full Board at its January 2012 meeting for final action.

#### **Background Information**

Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing is a single-purpose educational institution that grants an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree with a major in nursing. The Board of Regents authorized the School in 1904, and in 1978 the Regents granted the School approval to grant the A.A.S. degree. The School is part of the Beth Israel Medical Center, which in turn is a partner in Continuum Health Partners, Inc. The School's single program, which prepares candidates for RN licensure, is registered jointly with Pace University. Pace provides the liberal arts and sciences courses required for the A.A.S.; Phillips Beth provides the nursing content and awards the degree.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents accredit without conditions Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing for a period of five years.

Regents with a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest on this application are asked to recuse themselves from participating in the deliberation and decision.

Attachment

## Information in Support of Recommendation

### Peer Review Visit

In preparation for a visit by a peer review team, Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing prepared a self-study following the requirements for self-studies in the *Handbook of Institutional Accreditation*. On March 28, 2011, a team of peers (Team) approved by the Department, along with Department staff, conducted a site visit to the School to assess compliance with the standards for institutional accreditation. During the visit, the Team interviewed faculty, administrators, staff, Trustees, and students; visited classes; reviewed course syllabi and student work; examined student and faculty folders; examined administrative records and policy statements; assessed physical facilities, library resources, and instructional equipment; interviewed a representative of Pace University; and visited the Beth Israel Medical Center.

<b>Enrollment—Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing</b>				
Fall	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time Equivalent
2006	41	179	220	101
2007	43	252	295	127
2008	39	246	285	121
2009	26	214	240	97
2010	20	233	253	98

Source: NYSED, Higher Education Data System, 15 August 2011

<b>NCLEX Pass Rates (first-time test-takers)</b>				
	Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing (# of takers)		New York State	National
2003	89.8%	(49)	85.7%	87%
2004	87.2%	(39)	84.7%	85.3%
2005	92.9%	(70)	86.7%	87.5%
2006	93.2%	(74)	87.4%	88%
2007	89.9%	(78)	83.7%	84.8%
2008	84.6%	(104)	84.8%	86.2%
2009	86.2%	(123)	85.3%	87.6%
2010	96.9%	(96)	84.3%	86.5%

Source: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/nurse/nurseprogs-nclexrn2003-07.htm> and <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/nurse/nurseprogs-nclexrn2008-12.htm> (accessed 15 August 2011)

The Team recommended that the School further develop and implement a comprehensive plan for information literacy, including but not limited to, ongoing library instruction, curriculum integration, outcomes assessment, and faculty, staff, and student collaboration. It made no other recommendations. Overall, the Team found the School to be in compliance with all standards and recommended accreditation without conditions.

The Department transmitted the team's draft compliance review report to the School, providing it 30 days to prepare a written response correcting factual errors and addressing any other aspect of the report. The School accepted the draft report's recommendation. It described steps it will take based on the standards, performance indicators, and outcome measures established by the Association of College and Research Libraries. Among other steps, the School introduced an information literacy faculty development program in fall 2011. The program reinforces principles of information literacy and provides a forum to discuss the integration of advanced principles into all courses. The School also plans to establish separate, two-hour information literacy classes for freshman and seniors, to supplement information literacy topics woven into nursing courses. In addition, in 2012, the School will double the availability of its research librarian to 20 hours per week, with the goal of making the position full time in 2013.

The draft Team report, Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing's response, and the Department's preliminary recommendation for accreditation action became the final compliance review report.

Based on the School's self study, the site visit team's report and the School's response, the Department found that the institution is in full compliance with the standards for institutional accreditation. As a result, the Department recommended accreditation without conditions for a period to be recommended by the Regents Advisory Council on Institutional Accreditation.

#### Regents Advisory Council (RAC) Review

As required by Subpart 4-1 of the Regents Rules, the Department transmitted the final compliance review report for consideration by the Regents Advisory Council on Institutional Accreditation. (The RAC is established in §3.12(d) of the *Rules of the Board of Regents* "to review applications for accreditation and renewal of accreditation pursuant to Part 4 of this Title, and such other matters as the department may ask it to review, and make recommendations to the Regents and the commissioner based on its review.")

On December 15, 2011, the Advisory Council met to consider Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing's application. In a public meeting, it met with representatives of the School, the chair of the peer review team, and Department staff. RAC members discussed their observations and asked questions of the institution. The Council then voted unanimously to recommend Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing for **accreditation without conditions for a period of five years.**

### Commissioner's Review

Neither Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing nor the Deputy Commissioner for Higher Education appealed the Advisory Council's recommendation. Therefore, pursuant to Subpart 4-1, the Commissioner adopted the Council's recommendation as his recommendation to the Board of Regents.

The attachment to this item sets forth the range of accreditation actions authorized under Subpart 4-1 of the *Rules of the Board of Regents*.

**Rules of the Board of Regents**

Subpart 4-1, Voluntary Institutional Accreditation for Title IV Purposes

§4-1.2 Definitions.

As used in the Subpart:

(a) *Accreditation* means the status of public recognition that the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents grant to an educational institution that meets the standards and requirements prescribed in this Subpart.

(b) *Accreditation action* means accreditation, accreditation with conditions, probationary accreditation, approval of substantive changes in the scope of accreditation, and denial, revocation, or termination of accreditation.

(c) *Accreditation with conditions* means accreditation that requires the institution to take steps to remedy issues raised in a review for accreditation, and provide reports and/or submit to site visits concerning such issues, provided that such issues do not materially affect the institution's substantial compliance with the standards and requirements for accreditation.

(d) *Adverse action* or *adverse accreditation action* means suspension, withdrawal, denial, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation.

(q) *Probationary accreditation* means accreditation for a period of time, not to exceed two years, during which the institution shall come into compliance with standards for accreditation through corrective action.