

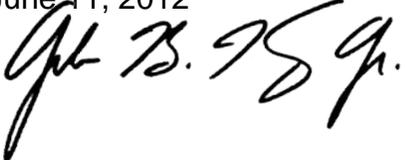


To: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

From: John L. D'Agati 

Subject: Laboratory Institute of Merchandising: Regents Authorization to authorize LIM to award the Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) degree

Date: June 11, 2012

Authorizations: 

**SUMMARY**

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents authorize the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising (DBA LIM College) to award the Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) degree?

Reason for Consideration

Required by State Regulation

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its June 2012 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

The Laboratory Institute of Merchandising submitted a proposal for a Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) degree program in Fashion Merchandising and Retail Management in December 2011. Regents authorization is required because LIM is not currently authorized to award that degree title. Master plan amendment is not needed because the college already offers a master's-level degree program in the discipline area of Business.

The Department has determined that the program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

## Background Information

Laboratory Institute of Merchandising, a proprietary college located in midtown Manhattan, was founded in 1939. It currently offers A.A.S. and A.O.S. programs in Fashion Merchandising, B.P.S. and B.B.A. programs in Fashion Merchandising, Marketing, and Management, and an M.B.A. degree program in Fashion Management and Entrepreneurship.

The proposed M.P.S. degree program in Fashion Merchandising and Retail Management is a 30-credit program designed to give students an opportunity to learn about current retailing business trends in the fashion industry. The proposed program consists of 24 credits of core courses, a 3-credit capstone project utilizing skills developed throughout the program, and a 3-credit internship. LIM's current full-time faculty who are qualified to teach the M.P.S. program have appropriate doctoral and/or master's degrees in business and professional qualifications to teach at the graduate level.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising to confer the Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) degree on students successfully completing registered programs.

## Timetable for Implementation

If the Regents authorize the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising to award the Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) degree, the Department will register the program and the institution will proceed to advertise and enroll students.