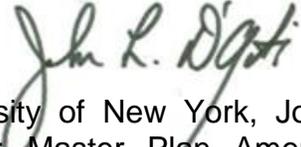




TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: The City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Cell and Molecular Biology

DATE: July 13, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for The City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice to offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Cell and Molecular Biology?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Statute and State Regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its July 2015 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

The City University of New York Board of Trustees submitted a proposal for a master plan amendment to authorize John Jay College of Criminal Justice to offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Cell and Molecular Biology.

Background Information

The City University of New York seeks to amend its master plan to allow John Jay College of Criminal Justice (New York, NY) to register a program in Criminal Justice leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree. A master plan amendment is required because this would be John Jay's first program in the discipline of the biological sciences.

The proposed program is designed to serve as a foundation for students who plan to enter into the biomedical workforce, with a special focus on propelling students to graduate and into professional programs in biomedical science. The proposed program contributes to the College's strategic goal of expanding its liberal arts offerings as recommended by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in a recent reaccreditation report. John Jay currently offers a B.S. in Forensic Science program, its only program in the natural sciences. John Jay plans to develop additional programs in the sciences in the future.

The curriculum of the proposed program includes a foundation in the typical biology major requirements such as general biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics. In addition, junior and senior year students will receive in-depth knowledge in topics such as cell biology, microbiology, genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, and anatomy and physiology. Specialized elective courses will be offered covering topics in biomedical research and forensic biology, therefore providing a unique John Jay identity for the proposed program in comparison to other biology programs throughout CUNY. Furthermore, the curriculum will provide a solid general education and students will graduate with the critical reading, research, and writing skills necessary for academic success.

After departmental review, the Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE) determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration. In May of 2015, the Department conducted a canvass of all degree-granting institutions in the New York City area. Of those canvassed, there were no objections or statements of negative impact.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approves a master plan amendment to authorize The City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice to offer a program in Cell and Molecular Biology leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will transmit it to the Governor with a recommendation for favorable action. Following gubernatorial approval, the Department will register the program.