





TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: Maria College (Albany, New York): Master Plan
Amendment to offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal
Arts

DATE: July 20, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Maria College of Albany, New York to offer a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Liberal Arts?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Statute and State Regulation.

Proposed Handling

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

Procedural History

Maria College submitted a proposal for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Liberal Arts. The Department has determined that the program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program would be the College's first program leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree. A related petition for a charter amendment to add authority to grant the B.A. degree will also be before the Board at the July meeting.

Background Information

Maria College of Albany, New York seeks to amend its master plan to allow it to establish a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) program in Liberal Arts. The purpose of Maria College's proposed B.A. in Liberal Arts is to provide a foundation of diverse learning in the liberal arts and specific focus on one area of concentrated study that will enable students to enhance their critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills. The program is intended to prepare students for continued study at the graduate level or for direct career entry. Maria College currently offers an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts, and suggests that the B.A. in Liberal Arts will be a natural extension of the College's mission in this area.

The proposed program is designed for high school graduates who wish to pursue a Bachelor's degree and is also suitable for nontraditional students who wish to pursue study in preparation for a career change. Maria College projects an enrollment of 10 new students in the first year of implementation, steadily increasing new student enrollment in the first few years to a program capacity of 70 students (30 new and 40 continuing) by year five. Maria College currently possesses the facilities, resources, and faculty to meet these educational needs.

After departmental review, the Office of College and University Evaluation determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration. In April of 2015, the Department conducted a canvass of all degree-granting institutions in the Capital Region. Of those canvassed, there were no objections or statements of negative impact.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Maria College to offer a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Liberal Arts in the discipline of the Humanities. The amendment will be effective until July 30, 2016, unless the Department registers the programs prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board approves this master plan amendment, the Department will register the program and the College will proceed to recruit and enroll students