



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: Fordham University, Ph.D. in Business

DATE: September 9, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Mary Ellen Elin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Fordham University to offer its first doctoral program in the Business discipline?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

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

Procedural History

A master plan amendment is required because the program would be Fordham University's first doctoral program in the Business discipline.

Background Information

The proposed 90-credit Ph.D. program in Business, which would be offered at the University's main (Bronx) campus, is designed to cultivate the next generation of business scholars. Students would specialize in (1) Strategy and Decision Making, or (2) Capital Markets, and complete 54 credit hours of semester-based coursework. This would consist of 24 credits of common core courses, 15 credits in specialized seminars, and an additional 15 credits in specialized electives. The 36 credits beyond the semester-based courses would be expressed as 12 credits of independent study and 24

credits of dissertation work. Major program elements include comprehensive exams; presentation of an independent research paper; defense of a dissertation proposal; pedagogical training and supervised teaching; and the successful defense of a dissertation. Funded professionalization activities, such as conference presentations and publication experiences, and opportunities to network through conferences and contacts with visiting scholars will help prepare graduates for academic positions.

Fordham's Gabelli School of Business, which serves over 3,800 students, would administer the program. Applicants are expected to have an M.A., an M.S. or an equivalent degree in business or a related field from an accredited university. They would be evaluated on two primary criteria: (1) demonstrated success in university-level programs, and (2) scholarly potential. Funding would be available to qualified students. The program would admit 6 students every other year, for a total of 18 students enrolled by the program's fifth year. All students would be expected to complete the program within five years.

No new facilities are needed to launch the program. Students would have access to the array of computing and software resources available to over 1,700 current graduate students, including 40 computer labs. All program students would receive a laptop for academic use. Students would have access to all libraries, which include more than 2 million books, 1,600 print journals, and 65,540 online journals. The University has identified 35 core faculty members from a larger pool of nearly 100 full-time business faculty. A major gift will seed initial funding for students.

Fordham states that the proposed program is vital to its mission and strategic plan, as it would provide the University with an opportunity to enhance its commitment to research and innovation in business. The University believes the Ph.D program will raise the quality of research and education at all degree levels, as well as serve as a catalyst in attracting and retaining top business faculty and students.

As part of the master planning process, the Department canvassed institutions in the New York City region and doctoral institutions statewide. Eight institutions responded; none objected to the proposed program. If the Regents approve this master plan amendment, the Department will register the program as well as a concomitant Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) program in Business.

Recommendation

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of Fordham University to authorize the University to offer its first doctoral program in the Business discipline. The amendment will be effective until September 30, 2016, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the program (and a related M.Phil. program) at Fordham's main campus.