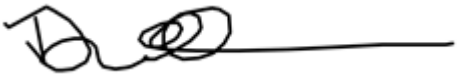





THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech 

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: Marist College, Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) program in Physical Therapy

DATE: October 5, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Marist College to offer a D.P.T. program in Physical Therapy?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its October 2017 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

A Master Plan Amendment is necessary as this is the institution's first program at the doctoral level.

Background Information

Marist College is seeking approval of an amendment to its master plan to offer a D.P.T. program in Physical Therapy. The purpose of the proposed program is to provide an intellectual, ethical, and skills-oriented education. It will provide students with the skills to become autonomous movement specialists who integrate critical thinking with ethical and professional judgment in all aspects of practice, teaching, research, advocacy, collaboration, and consultation. The proposed 115-credit D.P.T. program will span 9 semesters and includes 1,440 hours of clinical internship. The curriculum is designed to meet New York State licensure requirements and to align with Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) standards. It is based on a framework that involves the balanced, sequential progression and integration of foundational and clinical sciences, critical inquiry, professional practice, and clinical education experiences.

Admission to the D.P.T. program requires a minimum bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and a minimum science grade point average of 3.0. Candidates must complete the following pre-requisite courses with a grade of C+ or above: 8 credits of Anatomy and Physiology I and II, General Chemistry I and II, General Biology I and II, College Physics I and II, 3 credits of statistics and 6 credits of Psychology. GRE scores, two letters of recommendation, an essay and pre-admission clinical experience of at least eighty hours at a minimum of 2 different settings are also required. Applicants submit a completed application and who meet requirements will be called for an on-site interview based on GPA.

The facilities to support the program are within the Allied Health Building, a new \$33 million project. It contains standardized patient suites, classrooms, a skills laboratory, and a simulation lab. A full gross anatomy laboratory has eleven dissection stations. The space contains faculty and support offices, a student lounge, and conference rooms. The program has a budget of \$335,000 for acquisition of equipment. The library currently has over 28,000 books and access to more than 4,000 journal titles in Health and Biological Sciences. It has also obtained access to CINAHL Complete with Full Text and Cochrane Library and will add online reference materials, such as PDR and the Merck Index and Manuals.

The program has hired five full-time faculty and shares a full-time anatomist with the Physician Assistant program. An additional full-time faculty member is scheduled to begin in September 2017. Three more full-time faculty will be hired by 2020. In addition, the program will have three adjunct faculty members. All faculty members will hold earned doctorates and represent a blend of individuals with doctoral preparation and clinical specialization.

After review of the proposal, the Department determined that the program meets all standards for registration. In addition, as part of the review process, a peer review team conducted a site visit to Marist College. Following the peer review site visit, a

canvass of the institutions of the Hudson Valley Region and the institutions offering licensure-qualifying physical therapy programs in New York State was conducted to determine the potential impact on current programs and resources.

Three institutions responded to the canvass. All of the respondents noted concerns about the availability of clinical sites; two identified the shortage of qualified faculty members; one questioned the need for a new program, claiming that the existing programs meet the need of the job market. The College provided a response to each of the institutions. To address the concern of the negative impact on the availability of the clinical sites on the existing programs, the College responded that the affiliation agreements include the statement that Marist DPT students would "not impact relationships with other educational programs", since the clinical sites are not currently contracted to capacity. Concerning the faculty shortage, the College provided data demonstrating that approximately five percent of the faculty positions remain vacant nationwide. Currently there are two existing licensure-qualifying DPT programs in the Hudson Valley region; neither institution raised concerns. The College provided market data indicating the need for the new program.

Recommendation

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of Marist College to authorize the College to offer the D.P.T. program. This amendment will be effective until October 15, 2018, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the 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 D.P.T. program in Physical Therapy.