



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: Long Island University, CW Post Campus: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree program in Veterinary Medicine

DATE: January 2, 2020

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Long Island University (LIU) to offer a Veterinary Medicine program leading to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M) degree at its C.W. Post Campus?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Full Board at its January 2020 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

A Master Plan Amendment is necessary as this is the University's first program in the disciplinary area of Health Professions at the doctoral level at its C.W. Post Campus.

Background Information

LIU submitted an application to offer a D.V.M. program in Veterinary Medicine at its C.W. Post Campus. Currently, LIU-C.W. Post has a B.S. program in Veterinary Technology. The purpose and the goals of the D.V.M. program in Veterinary Medicine are to produce competent, practice-ready veterinarians to meet the needs of society; promote academic excellence, discovery and social accountability; and foster scholarship. The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is committed to the concept of reverence for life. The purpose and goals of the program are consistent with the mission of the University- to provide excellence and access in private higher education to people from all backgrounds who seek to expand their knowledge and prepare themselves for meaningful educated lives and for service to their communities and the world.

The program will use a distributed model of clinical education. LIU does not intend to create a teaching hospital; but will facilitate clinical education by building partnerships and placing students with private sector veterinary practices and animal hospitals. Opportunities for collaborations with the veterinary medicine community abound in the area where the University is located. The presence of world-renowned board-certified specialists in areas such as animal dentistry, dermatology, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, and animal behavior would offer students exposure to high quality referral hospitals in addition to primary care practices and animal shelters. The presence of the North Shore Equestrian Center at LIU presents an opportunity for veterinary students to become acquainted with the equine industry. In addition, the program will be uniquely positioned to pursue research in veterinary pharmacology by partnering with faculty and scholars at the College of Pharmacy and establishing partnerships with regional pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

For admission to the program, the following requirements must be met: completion of at least 60 credits of full-time postsecondary education with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; completion of pre-requisite courses (29 credits) in English Composition, Public Speaking, Biology I, Biology II, General Chemistry with Lab, Organic Chemistry with Lab, Biochemistry, Mathematics or Statistics, and Genetics with a grade of C or higher and a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the pre-requisite courses; submission of GRE scores and English language proficiency test scores if English is not the first language; provision of three letters of reference, one of which must be from a veterinarian; submission of a personal statement; and participation in an interview.

The curriculum of the D.V.M. program is aligned with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE) competencies and accreditation standards. Emphasis will be placed on supervised experiential learning. The program will require completion of 148 credits. The first three years of the program will prepare students to be “practice-ready” for their fourth year, which will be made up entirely of clerkship rotations. The first year of the D.V.M. program consists of 37 credits and emphasizes structure and function, animal handling and restraint, and the building

of both clinical and professional skills. The learning environment includes didactic teaching, active learning sessions/tutorials, on-campus laboratory sessions, and experiential learning at partner institutions, clinics and hospitals. The second year consists of 38 credits and focuses on morphologic and molecular responses to etiologic agents, pathogenesis, and disease processes epidemiology. The third year consists of 41 credits and emphasizes clinical medicine, with a focus on clinical signs, diagnosis, prognosis, prevention and domestic animal common diseases treatment. The fourth year consists of 32 weeks of full-time clerkships (32 credits) and will provide supervised opportunities for students to enhance professional and clinical skills. Students will engage in clinical experiences at a variety of settings, including private clinics, veterinary hospitals, zoos, wildlife facilities, racetracks, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology companies, etc.

The projected class size is currently 100 for the first five years. The institution expects a three percent attrition rate. It is anticipated that the student body of the program will reflect the current population—40.2 percent white; 13.0 percent Black or African American; 12.9 percent Hispanic/Latino; and 9.1 percent Asian. The College will draw students from all over the United States and internationally.

The College will be housed in three separate buildings: (1) a new Veterinary Learning Center projected to open in August 2020, (2) a renovated Teaching and Research Center to be completed in July 2020, and (3) a renovated Roth Hall that currently houses all offices for administration, faculty, postdoctoral fellows and staff. As part of the College's contingency plan, all first-year lecture and basic laboratory courses have been scheduled to be initially taught in existing classrooms at the LIU C.W. Post campus. Specialized laboratory facilities and all necessary equipment (anatomy lab, pathology lab, histology, research laboratories) will be in the Teaching and Research Center to be completed on schedule for the inaugural class. The College has recruited all the faculty members to deliver the first year of the D.V.M. program. In addition to the seven members of the Leadership team, currently there are 16 faculty members, 2 pending offers, and 3 interviews to take place before the end of November 2019. The College has 3 administrative assistants, 3 technicians, and 4 postdoctoral fellows. The plan is to hire the faculty members six months before the start of the courses. By year five, when the faculty should be fully assembled, it will number approximately 59. There will be about 20 technicians to assist with laboratory and veterinary skills courses.

A canvass of the institutions of the Long Island Region as well as Cornell University (with an existing D.V.M. program) was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. We received no objection.

Staff members from the Department reviewed the application materials. In addition, as part of the review process, a peer review site visit was conducted on August 29-31, 2018. Based upon the review, it is determined that the proposed D.V.M. program in Veterinary Medicine meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In October 2019, the program obtained a letter of reasonable assurance from AVMA Council.

Related Regents Item

Related to this, a charter application item, adding authority to offer the D.V.M. degree at LIU-C.W. Post, will be considered at the January 2020 meeting.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of LIU to authorize the University to offer the D.V.M. program in Veterinary Medicine at its C.W. Post Campus. This amendment will be effective until January 31, 2021, 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 D.V.M. program in Veterinary Medicine at LIU C.W. Post Campus.