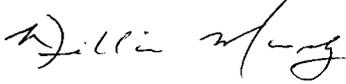




TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy 

SUBJECT: Elim Bible Institute and College: Master Plan Amendment to Offer a Program Leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Theology Degree

DATE: December 29, 2020

AUTHORIZATION(S):  

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents authorize Elim Bible Institute and College to offer its first bachelor's degree program?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Full Board at its January 2021 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Elim Bible Institute and College, Lima, NY (Livingston County), submitted a proposal to register a program in Theology leading to a Bachelor of Science degree. A master plan amendment is required because this will be the College's first program at the bachelor's degree level.

Background Information

Elim Bible Institute and College (EBIC) is a Regents-chartered independent institution offering students a single program of study in Biblical and Theological Studies leading to an Associate in Applied Science degree. One certificate program is also offered. EBIC received a provisional charter in 2012 and was granted an absolute charter

in 2019. EBIC was awarded accredited status by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools on April 24, 2018. EBIC's mission is "to prepare Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered servant leaders for global ministry and worldwide revival." According to the College, the proposed B.S. degree program in Theology will fulfill the mission of EBIC at a higher professional and academic level and provide graduates more opportunities for employment and further study. The proposed program is seen to offer a positive impact on the existing associate's level program, raising professional and academic standards for all students.

An academic review of the proposed degree program has been completed by the Department. The Department determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In addition, following the standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the Finger Lakes region. Of those canvassed, there were no objections or statements of negative impact should the program be registered.

Related Regents Items

A related charter petition to authorize Elim Bible Institute and College to award bachelor's degrees will also be before the Full Board at the January 2021 meeting.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Elim Bible Institute and College to offer a program in Theology leading to the B.S. degree. The amendment will be effective until January 2022, 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 program and the institution will proceed to recruit and enroll students.