



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Douglas E. Lentivec 
SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: Pace University – Pleasantville Campus – Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Computer Engineering

DATE: April 27, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Pace University – Pleasantville Campus to establish a proposed Computer Engineering program leading to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its May 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 in the discipline of engineering at the bachelor's level at the Pleasantville branch campus.

Background Information

Pace University – Pleasantville Campus is seeking approval of an amendment to its master plan to offer a B.S. degree in Computer Engineering. The proposed 120-122 credit program includes 67 liberal arts and science credits, 54 major credits, and 9-11

elective credits. Of the 54 major credits, 32 of them consist of computer science courses that are currently offered. The proposed program is designed to be in alignment with ABET engineering program accreditation standards.

The purpose of the program is to produce quality computer engineers who have a solid education at the baccalaureate level in liberal arts, science and mathematical foundations, engineering principles, software programming, hardware organization/architectures, and embedded and real-time systems. This is in alignment with the mission of Pace University: delivering excellence in professional education; preparing students to become leaders in their fields by providing an education that combines exceptional academics with professional experience. The program seeks to build upon the foundation of the longstanding computer science and information systems programs established over thirty years ago.

Students shall meet the following requirements to be admitted into the program: complete a formal application for admission; have a high school average of at least an 80% as indicated by their transcript, with at least three years of mathematics; submit two letters of recommendation and a personal essay (recommended). A quantitative SAT score of at least 550 is recommended (though not required), which is higher than that required for general admission to the University. Students interested in the program should have a strong background in mathematics and an interest in learning about and integrating knowledge of both computer hardware and software.

Pace University has invested over 120 million dollars in the Pleasantville campus over the past four years in preparation for the launch of new engineering programs important to the state's economy. Currently 1,384 square feet of lab space and significant equipment budget have been assigned to support the new engineering program. All classrooms have internet and audio-visual technology and are designed to allow for flexible setup. The program will be taught by four existing full/associate professors of computer science and electronic engineering, and one new computer engineering associate professor will be hired during the first year of the program. There is a rich pool of quality adjunct professors available from neighboring companies including IBM, GE and Philips.

After review of the proposal, the Department determined that the program meets all standards for registration. A canvass of the institutions of the Hudson Valley as well as of all institutions in the state offering engineering programs was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. No objections were received.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of Pace University – Pleasantville Campus to authorize the University to offer the B.S. Computer Engineering program. This amendment will be effective until May 9, 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 BS program in Computer Engineering.