



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: New York Institute of Technology: Master Plan Amendment, a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/Doctor of Philosophy in Medical and Biological Sciences

DATE: May 31, 2018

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize New York Institute of Technology located at Old Westbury, Long Island to offer its first academic doctoral degree in the Health Professions discipline, a Ph.D. in Medical and Biological Sciences?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its May 2018 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken. The Regents will consider separately a charter amendment to authorize the College to award the Ph.D. degree.

Procedural History

New York Institute of Technology (Old Westbury) has proposed a multiple award Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)/Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Medical and Biological Sciences. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program would be the University's first academic doctoral program in the Health Professions discipline.

Background Information

New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) states that the purpose of the proposed program is to prepare students to assume careers in academic medicine, academia, independent research institutes, industry or government. The program is designed to develop well-trained physician-scientists who will advance the evidence base for both osteopathic and general medicine. There is currently no D.O./Ph.D. program in New York State.

The NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) presently offers a D.O./M.S. degree for osteopathic medical students through the Academic Medicine Scholars program. The success of this program (including expressed student interest in the Ph.D.) provided the impetus for the current proposal. NYIT projects an initial enrollment of five students, growing to an enrollment of 19 in year 5, and is committed to providing the students with financial support for seven years. Although students at the NYITCOM are predominantly from the New York City metro area, including New Jersey and Connecticut, the medical school recruits nationally. To reach potential under-represented minority applicants, NYIT will participate in graduate fairs focusing on these populations, such as the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS).

Ninety (90) credits will be required to obtain the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The curriculum and training of students will utilize a standard 2-3-2 model in which osteopathic medical students will pursue their medical education in years 1-2 (preclinical) and in years 6-7 (clinical). Ph.D. training will take place in years 3, 4 and 5, as well as over the summers. All students will participate in a Clinical Skills course (8 hours/month) throughout the Ph.D. portion of the program. The course is designed to maintain the students' clinical skills by rotating in NYITCOM's onsite clinic. Faculty for the new degree will come primarily from the medical school and most will have approximately 80% effort dedicated to research activities. The program will draw upon the expertise of 32 current faculty members, in addition to six new hires.

Staff in the Office of Higher Education and the Office of the Professions determined that the program meets all standards for registration. As part of the master planning process, the Department canvassed institutions of higher education in the Long Island region as well as all doctoral institutions in New York State. Three institutions responded; there were no negative comments.

Related Regents Items

N/A

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize New York Institute of Technology to offer its first doctoral program in the Health Professions discipline. The amendment will be effective until June 12, 2019, unless the Department registers the D.O./Ph.D. 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.