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: John L. D'Agati

SUBJECT: Mercy College, Manhattan Campus: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Computer Science

DATE: May 23, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Mercy College to offer its first masters-level program in the Physical Sciences discipline area, a Master of Science (M.S.) in Computer Science, at the Manhattan Campus?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its June 2019 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Mercy College has submitted a proposal for a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Computer Science to be offered at the Manhattan Campus. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program will be the first masters-level degree program in the Physical Sciences discipline area at the Manhattan Campus.

Background Information

Mercy College seeks a master plan amendment to allow it to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Computer Science at the Manhattan Campus.

A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program represents the first masters-level degree program in the Physical Sciences discipline area at the Manhattan Campus.

The proposed 30-credit M.S. degree program in Computer Science is designed to prepare students to become Computer Science professionals including software developers and data scientists. The proposed program offers three foundation courses, four specialization courses in either Software Development or Data Science, two major elective courses, and one capstone course. Students in either specialization can take two elective courses from the College's existing M.S. in Cybersecurity or Computer Science courses from the other specialization to enhance their skills and knowledge and be competitive in the high-demand technology workplace.

An academic review of faculty, curriculum, and other program aspects of the proposed degree program has been completed by the Department. The Department has determined that the proposed degree program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In March 2019, following its standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the New York City Regents region. Four institutions responded; none objected.

Related Regents Item

N/A

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Mercy College to offer its first masters-level program in the Physical Sciences discipline area at the Manhattan Campus, a Master of Science (M.S.) in Computer Science. The amendment will be effective until June 4, 2020, 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.