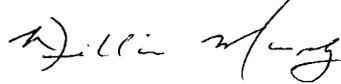**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy

SUBJECT: Mercy College, Manhattan Campus: Master Plan Amendment to Offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree Program in Computer Science

DATE: September 3, 2020

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

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

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

The issue will come before the Full Board at its September 2020 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Mercy College has submitted a proposal for a Bachelor of Science (B.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 bachelors-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 Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Computer Science at the Manhattan Campus.

The proposed 120-credit B.S. program in Computer Science is composed of foundation courses in programming, discrete structures, and calculus; major core courses in data structures, analysis of algorithms, networking, computer architecture, artificial intelligence, operating systems, probability theory, and a two-course sequence in software engineering; major elective courses in computer science and cybersecurity; and numerous experiential learning opportunities. The primary goal of the proposed program is to deliver a state-of-the-art Computer Science education to students in and around Manhattan and prepare students from all backgrounds for promising and fulfilling careers in Computer Science, as well as graduate school. The College currently offers a Master of Science (M.S.) in Computer Science, with two specializations – Software Development and Data Science, at the Manhattan Branch campus.

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 June 2020, following its standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the New York City Regent's region. Four institutions responded; none objected.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

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 Mercy College to offer its first bachelors-level program in the Physical Sciences discipline area at the Manhattan Campus, a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science. The amendment will be effective until September 15, 2021, 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.