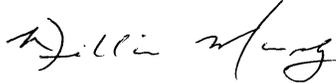




THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy 

SUBJECT: The State University of New York (SUNY), Empire State College: Regents Authorization to Award the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) Degree

DATE: September 1, 2022

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents authorize SUNY Empire State College to award the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degree?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its September 2022 meeting.

Procedural History

On June 7, 2022, the SUNY Board of Trustees authorized SUNY Empire State College to offer the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degree, subject to Regents approval. Regents authorization is required to award the M.P.A. degree. A master plan amendment is not required because the institution already offers master's level programs in the discipline area of Social Sciences.

Background Information

The proposed M.P.A. degree is to establish the Public Administration program as a stand-alone degree option at SUNY Empire State College. Currently, the institution offers this course of study as a track in the existing Master of Arts (M.A.) in Social and Public Policy degree program. Disaggregation of this track will render this course of study more visible to prospective students seeking graduate study in this field and to prospective employers reviewing the academic credentials of program graduates. The M.P.A. degree is a specialized degree that is more practitioner-oriented than the more general academic M.A. degree. Feedback from various stakeholders has shown that the M.P.A. degree is more recognizable than the M.A. degree for a master's degree program in Public Administration and serves as the industry standard for this field.

The purpose of the proposed program is to produce graduates who are prepared for career advancement in public service or the not-for-profit sector, providing students with advanced skill sets necessary for supervisory and managerial positions. The curriculum will be offered 100% online and allow students to complete components of the program via independent study. The proposed program will draw entirely on existing resources, including faculty, courses, library offerings, and technology services.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents authorize SUNY Empire State College to award the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degree.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents authorizes the institution to award the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degree, the Department will register the proposed program in Public Administration at SUNY Empire State College.