



TO: Higher Education Committee
FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
SUBJECT: Renewal of Institutional Accreditation: New York College of Health Professions

DATE: December 3, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):

John L. D'Agati
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents grant renewal of accreditation to New York College of Health Professions?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Higher Education Committee at its December 2012 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken. It will then come before the full Board at its December 2012 meeting for final action.

Procedural History

On November 28, 2012, the Regents Advisory Council on Institutional Accreditation (RAC) met to consider the accreditation renewal application of the College. The RAC's recommendation is hereby transmitted to the Board of Regents for consideration and final action.

Background Information

New York College of Health Professions, which prepares practitioners in the field of holistic health and integrative medicine (including licensure-qualifying programs in massage therapy and acupuncture), applied to renew its institutional accreditation through the New York State Board of Regents and Commissioner of Education. Its six

registered programs range from certificate and A.O.S. programs to programs that yield B.P.S. and M.S. awards. The Regents and Commissioner granted initial accreditation to the College in 2007. The College's term of accreditation was extended administratively in 2011 and in 2012 pending a site visit.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents renew the institutional accreditation of New York College of Health Professions with conditions for a period of two (2) years, including reports to the State Education Department addressing all issues of compliance with Regents standards for accreditation and demonstrating improved student performance outcomes on all professional licensure examinations. The schedule for such reports shall be established by the Department.

Regents with a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest on this application are asked to recuse themselves from participating in the deliberation and decision.

Timetable for Implementation

N/A

Attachment

Information in Support of Recommendation Renewal of Institutional Accreditation: New York College of Health Professions

Peer Review Visit

As part of the accreditation process, the institution completed a self study and prepared supporting documentation. On March 27-28, 2012, a team of peer reviewers and a representative of the Department (“Team”) visited the campus in Syosset, New York, as well as extension sites in New York City, to ascertain compliance with the standards of institutional accreditation. Site team members reviewed the institutional self study, examined supporting documentation, interviewed members of the College community (including faculty, staff, administrators, students, and trustees) toured facilities, and assessed resources. In its report, the Team made a total of 18 recommendations.

The Team found the College to be in compliance with standards (as defined under section 4-1.4 of Regents Rules) addressing institutional mission; assessment of student achievement; support services; admissions; and requirements addressing complaint, Title IV, teach out, and public disclosure responsibilities.

The Team found the College to be out of compliance with the following standards: programs of study; faculty; resources; administration; and consumer information. Similar elements of the faculty, resources, and administration standards were found to be out of compliance at the time of the initial accreditation review in 2007. In general, the recommendations identified by the Team result from a lack of clear evidence that administrative structures and approaches adequately support faculty, library services, and robust program- and institution-level data and analysis.

Department’s Preliminary Recommendation

The Department transmitted the draft team report to the College for review and comment. The College accepted the draft report’s recommendations; identified perceived errors and inconsistencies in the report; and described actions and plans to address the recommendations. The compliance review report includes the team draft report, the College’s response, and the Department’s recommendation with respect to accreditation action.

Based on the self-study and other pertinent material, the team’s report and the College’s response, and the recurrence of issues identified at the initial accreditation visit, the Department found the institution to be in partial compliance with institutional accreditation standards. As a result, the Department recommended probationary accreditation for a period of two years, the maximum term allowed by Regents Rules for such accreditation action.

Regents Advisory Council Review and Recommendation

As required by Subpart 4-1 of the Regents Rules, the Department transmitted the final compliance review report for consideration by the Regents Advisory Council on Institutional Accreditation. (The RAC is established in §3.12(d) of the *Rules of the Board*

of Regents “to review applications for accreditation and renewal of accreditation pursuant to Part 4 of this Title, and such other matters as the department may ask it to review, and make recommendations to the Regents and the commissioner based on its review.”)

On November 28, 2012, the Council met to consider New York College of Health Professions’ application. In a public meeting, the Council met with the College’s President, other College representatives, and Department staff. RAC members discussed their observations and asked questions of the institution’s representatives. The Council then voted unanimously to recommend the following action:

Renew the accreditation of New York College of Health Professions with conditions for a period of two (2) years, including reports to the State Education Department, addressing all issues of compliance with Regents standards for accreditation and demonstrating improved student performance outcomes on all professional licensure examinations. The schedule for such reports shall be established by the State Education Department.

Commissioner’s Review

Neither the New York College of Health Professions nor the Deputy Commissioner for Higher Education appealed the Advisory Council’s recommendation. Therefore, pursuant to Subpart 4-1, the Commissioner adopted the Council’s recommendation as his recommendation to the Board of Regents.

The attachment to this item sets forth the range of accreditation actions authorized under Subpart 4-1 of the *Rules of the Board of Regents*.

Rules of the Board of Regents

Subpart 4-1, Voluntary Institutional Accreditation for Title IV Purposes

§4-1.2 Definitions.

As used in the Subpart:

(a) *Accreditation* means the status of public recognition that the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents grant to an educational institution that meets the standards and requirements prescribed in this Subpart.

(b) *Accreditation action* means accreditation, accreditation with conditions, probationary accreditation, approval of substantive changes in the scope of accreditation, and denial, revocation, or termination of accreditation.

(c) *Accreditation with conditions* means accreditation that requires the institution to take steps to remedy issues raised in a review for accreditation, and provide reports and/or submit to site visits concerning such issues, provided that such issues do not materially affect the institution's substantial compliance with the standards and requirements for accreditation.

(d) *Adverse action* or *adverse accreditation action* means suspension, withdrawal, denial, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation.

(s) *Probationary accreditation* means accreditation for a period of time, not to exceed two years, during which the institution shall come into compliance with standards for accreditation through corrective action.