



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
SUBJECT: CUNY Queens College: Regents Authorization to award the Master of Music (M.M.) Degree
DATE: August 27, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):

John L. D'Agati
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents authorize The City University of New York Queens College to award the Master of Music (M.M.) degree?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its September 2012 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

On April 30, 2012 the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLVED that a program in Classical Performance leading to the Masters of Music (M.M.) based on the existing M.A. Program in Music be approved subject to financial ability.

RESOLVED that a program in Jazz Studies leading to the Masters of Music (M.M.) based on the existing M.A. Program in Music be approved subject to financial ability.

On May 16, 2012, the Department received CUNY's proposal to award a Master of Music (M.M.) degree and to register a Master of Music (M.M.) program in Classical Performance and an M.M. program in Jazz Studies at Queens College. Regents authorization is needed because CUNY Queens College is not currently authorized to award this degree title. Master plan amendment is not needed because the College already offers master's-level programs in the discipline area of the Fine Arts.

The Department has determined that the programs meet the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Background Information

Paragraph 8 of §6206 of the Education Law authorizes the City University Board of Trustees:

The Board of Trustees shall, on the recommendation of its faculty or faculties, grant the certificates, diplomas and degrees which were announced in the bulletins of the existing public institutions of higher learning published for the term beginning immediately prior to April sixteenth, nineteen hundred–twenty six, and also such other degrees and honors as the regents thereafter specifically authorized or may hereafter authorize it to grant.

At CUNY Queens College, CUNY Trustees are authorized to confer the Master of Arts (M.A.) degree on students successfully completing registered programs in Music. The College also offers baccalaureate and master's level programs in a variety of other disciplines. Since CUNY Queens College now seeks to offer a Master of Music (M.M.) program, Regents authorization is required because the College is not currently authorized to award the M.M. degree

The proposed Master of Music programs are based on the existing Master of Arts in Music. CUNY Queens notes that master's programs at peer institutions are overwhelmingly M.M. and not M.A. The M.M. degree will be understood more readily as one including specialized professional training.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize The City University of New York Queens College to award the Master of Music (M.M.) degree to students successfully completing the registered Classical Performance or Jazz Studies program.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents authorizes The City University of New York Queens College to award the Master of Music degree, the Department will proceed to register the Classical Performance and Jazz Studies programs as leading to the Master of Music degree and the institution will proceed to recruit and register students