



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

**FROM:** John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*

**SUBJECT:** Renewal of Permission to Operate in New York State:  
Saint Mary's College of California

**DATE:** March 9, 2015

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Elizabeth R. Berlin*

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents renew permission for Saint Mary's College of California to offer courses from its Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Performing Arts in New York City?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

#### **Proposed Handling**

The question will come before the full Board at its March 2015 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

#### **Background Information**

The Department first granted Saint Mary's College of California, located in Moraga, California, permission to offer 12 courses from its Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in Performing Arts in New York City in March 2010. The College has packaged this sub-set of courses from its B.A. program, which it has designated the "LEAP Program" (Liberal Education for Arts Professionals), to enable professional dancers in the New York City area, who are enrolled students at Saint Mary's College of California, to pursue coursework within a flexible schedule accommodating the dancers' work obligations, and at a location convenient to their performance venues.

The College, established in 1863, is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Total current enrollment at the College is 4,257; there are 86 students currently taking courses offered in New York although, depending on their work schedules, not all active students are in classes every semester. The College indicates that, to date, 26 students who have completed coursework in New York have ultimately completed their programs at Saint Mary's and graduated.

To be considered for admission to the LEAP program, candidates must have a minimum of two years of paid professional employment as a dancer, and a high school diploma, or its equivalent. The 12 courses offered in New York are part of the College's core curriculum. The College indicates that all faculty teaching full courses in the New York program are based in New York and are overseen by and collaborate closely with the chairs and directors of their respective departments and programs at the College's main campus in California.

Classes are held at the Executive Conference Center at the Hotel Pennsylvania in mid-town Manhattan. In addition, LEAP maintains an office within walking distance from the classroom site, where administrative and academic counseling services are provided to students. The College has a librarian dedicated to the LEAP Program and its students. Students have access to Saint Mary's College library via delivery of books and materials to students' homes, interlibrary loan, and comprehensive online services.

### **Recommendation**

VOTED, that the Board of Regents renew the permission to operate for Saint Mary's College of California to offer 12 courses from its Bachelor of Arts program in Performing Arts, for a period of five years ending on March 17, 2020.