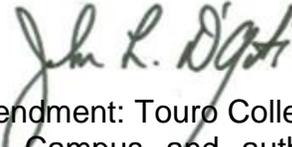




**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

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

**SUBJECT:** Master Plan Amendment: Touro College: Establishment of Valhalla Branch Campus and authority to award the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Biology Education at that branch campus

**DATE:** October 19, 2015

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

#### **SUMMARY**

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

Should the Board of Regents approve the master plan amendment for Touro College to establish a branch campus in Valhalla, New York and offer a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Biology Education at that branch campus?

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

Required by State regulation.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the full Board at the October 2015 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken. A related charter petition for the establishment of the branch campus and the authority to grant the Master of Science (M.S.) degree at that branch campus will also be before the Board of Regents at the October 2015 meeting.

#### **Procedural History**

Touro College submitted a proposal for a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Biology Education to be registered at a new branch campus on the premises of New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York. Both a charter amendment and a master plan amendment are needed to establish the new branch campus and to grant the College the authority to grant the M.S. degree at that branch campus.

## **Background Information**

Touro College currently offers a registered M.S. in Biology Education program at its main campus in Manhattan. This program leads to Initial or Initial/Professional teacher certification. The College currently offers some courses in that registered program at an extension site located at the New York Medical College, which is a separately chartered institution affiliated with Touro College. The College proposes to register the full M.S. in Biology Education program at the New York Medical College facility which requires approval of that facility as a branch campus. Upon registration of the program at the new branch campus, the College will discontinue the program at the main campus in Manhattan.

In 2013, New York Medical College purchased the facility at 19 Skyline Drive in Valhalla to accommodate potential expansion that would include collaboration with Touro College. The M.S. in Biology Education program would be the first Touro College program to be registered at the new branch campus but the College has indicated that it plans to seek registration of additional programs at the branch campus in the future. The facility includes a classroom, office, library and multi-use space that will be made available to Touro College for the M.S. in Biology Education program. New York Medical College will also make campus laboratories, computer resources and library facilities available to Touro College students.

Touro College has indicated that moving the program from the main campus to the new branch campus in Valhalla will not adversely impact students. The program at the main campus was first registered in December 2013. Students who enrolled in the program were made aware that it would include courses offered at the New York Medical College. Many of the students enrolled in the program reside in Westchester and Dutchess counties and the Valhalla location will be more convenient for them. Placements for student teaching will not be impacted by the relocation of the program as those placements are made with schools that are geographically convenient for the students. The College anticipates enrolling approximately 20 new full-time students per year for each of the first five years that the program is registered. The faculty currently assigned to teach in the Biology Education program include New York Medical College faculty and Touro College faculty. The College has indicated that they will all continue to teach in the program if it is registered at the Valhalla location.

Following the master planning process protocol, the Department canvassed degree-granting institutions in the Regents region where the proposed branch campus will be located. One institution responded, indicating that it had no comments on the proposal.

## **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Touro College to operate a branch campus in Valhalla, New York and authorizing the College to grant the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Biology Education at that branch campus. The amendment will be effective until October 27,

2016, unless the branch campus and degree program are registered 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 branch campus and Master of Science (M.S.) in Biology Education program will be registered.