




TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: Elizabeth R. Berlin

SUBJECT: Change in Scope of Institutional Accreditation:
Fei Tian College

DATE: September 26, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve a change in the scope of institutional accreditation of Fei Tian College?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Higher Education Committee at its October 2019 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken. It will then come before the full Board at its October 2019 meeting for final action.

Board of Regents members 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.

Procedural History

Fei Tian College (the College), Cuddebackville (Orange County) is accredited by the Board of Regents and Commissioner of Education. The Board of Regents granted initial institutional accreditation to Fei Tian College in 2014. The College's current term of accreditation expires on February 10, 2020. In July 2018, the Board of Regents approved a master plan amendment to establish a branch campus in Middletown, NY and authorized the College to award the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) and Master of Fine

Arts (M.F.A.) degrees at that location. In September 2018, the Board of Regents approved a second master plan amendment to authorize the institution to offer its first Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees in Biomedical Science and Data Science at the newly established branch campus.

As a result of those authorizations, the College applied to the Regents for a change in the scope of its institutional accreditation. A Regents-accredited institution that undergoes a substantive change must apply for a change in its scope of accreditation as defined in § 4.1-5(d) of the Rules of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

Fei Tian College applied for a change in scope of accreditation for the following reasons, as defined in Regents Rules §4-1.5(d)(1):

- (iii) the addition of courses or programs that represent a significant departure from the existing offerings of educational programs, or method of delivery, from those that were offered when the department last evaluated the institution for accreditation
- (iv) the addition of courses or programs of study at a degree or credential level different from that which is included in the institution's current accreditation
- (vii) the establishment of an additional location or branch campus
- (ix) the establishment of an additional location at which the institution offers at least 50 percent of an educational program

The purpose of the change in scope application is to document that the change does not adversely affect the institution's capacity to meet the accreditation standards defined under §§4-1.3 and 4-1.4 of the Regents Rules.

The College's addition of a branch campus that includes dance programs and expands into the sciences aligns with its updated mission to focus on a broader educational experience. Based on the application submitted by the institution, the Department finds that the College's new authority does not compromise the institution's ability to meet accreditation standards related to the College's mission; assessment of student achievement; resources; faculty; programs of study; administration; support services; admissions; consumer information; and related technical processes. The College's documentation of steps to support a branch campus and its programs provides assurance of the College's capacity to continue to satisfy critical accreditation standards addressing faculty and programs of study.

After conducting a site visit in February 2019, in accordance with §4-1.5(d)(5)(i), the Department finds that the College's expansion does not adversely affect the institution's capacity to continue to meet Regents accreditation standards. As a result, the Department recommends approval of the requested change in scope of accreditation for Fei Tian College.

Related Regents Items

[July 2018](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/718brca16.pdf): <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/718brca16.pdf>

[September 2018](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/918brca7.pdf): <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/918brca7.pdf>

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a change in scope of the institutional accreditation of Fei Tian College, in recognition of the institution's authority to award the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.), Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.), and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees at the newly established branch campus in Middletown, NY.