



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy *William Murphy*

SUBJECT: Application for Additional Extension and Surrender of Degree-Conferring Authority: The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts

DATE: September 25, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S): *William Murphy*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents grant an additional extension of provisional degree-conferring authority for the period of September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2025, for The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts and accept the institution's application to surrender, in whole, its degree-conferring authority?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its October 2025 meeting.

Procedural History

On September 2, 2025, The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts, a proprietary institution in New York State, submitted an application to the Department to extend and surrender its provisional degree-conferring authority.

Background Information

Section 3.58(d)(4) of the Rules of the Board of Regents requires that the Board of Regents determine whether to extend provisional degree-conferring authority for an additional period for the purposes of additional review in consideration of permanent authorization. Section 3.58(g)(2) of the Rules of the Board of Regents requires that the

Board of Regents determine whether to accept a proprietary college's request to surrender in whole or in part its degree-conferring authority.

The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts is a free-standing, for-profit institution that has been incorporated in the State of New York since 1981 as Three of Us Corporation, doing business as (d/b/a) The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts. In December 2012, the institution was granted provisional degree-conferring authority by the Board of Regents to offer Associate of Occupational Studies (A.O.S.) degree programs for an initial five-year term. In July 2017, the Board of Regents consented to the transfer of the institution's provisional degree-conferring authority to a new owner (Stanley Nasberg) and granted an extension of its provisional degree-conferring authority for five years, until September 2022. Due to an administrative oversight, the institution did not apply for an extension of its authority at the time it expired. The Department recommends that the Board of Regents grant an additional extension of The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts' provisional degree-conferring authority for the period of September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2025, in order to hold harmless the students who were enrolled during this time.

In May 2025, The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts ceased enrollment of new students in all registered programs, and its Board of Directors notified the Department of its decision to close the institution, effective September 1, 2025. American Academy of Dramatic Arts and Five Towns College were identified as teach-out partners. Five Towns College is committed to serving as the permanent custodian of student records. As of August 29, 2025, the institution ceased operations of all registered programs, no students remained enrolled in any registered program, students who had completed their programs were awarded their degrees, and students who did not complete their programs (approximately 95 students) were provided with teach-out options.

On September 2, 2025, pursuant to Section 3.58(g) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the institution applied to surrender its degree-conferring authority, in whole, to the Department. The application stated that the institution met all institutional responsibilities required by Section 3.58(h). A copy of the application is attached to this item as Attachment A. On September 9, 2025, all registered programs at the institution were discontinued by the Department. The Department recommends that the Board of Regents accept the application to surrender, in whole, The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts' degree-conferring authority, effective September 1, 2025.

Related Regents Items

[July 2017: New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts: Transfer of provisional authority to confer degrees](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/717brca5.pdf>)

[December 2012: New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts Application for Degree Authority. Regents Authorization to Award the Associate in Occupational Studies \(A.O.S.\) Degree and Master Plan Amendment Authorizing the Institution to offer a Program in Film and Television Performance](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/December2012/1212hea5.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/December2012/1212hea5.pdf>)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That, pursuant to Section 3.58(d)(4) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the Board of Regents grant an additional extension of The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts' provisional degree-conferring authority for the period of September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2025, and that pursuant to Section 3.58(g)(2) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the Board of Regents accept the application to surrender, in whole, its degree-conferring authority.

Timetable for Implementation

If accepted by the Board of Regents, the request from The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts to surrender its degree-conferring authority will be effective September 1, 2025.

THE NEW YORK
CONSERVATORY FOR
DRAMATIC ARTS

September 2, 2025

Emily J. Sutherland
Director
Office of College and University Evaluation
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Ms. Sutherland:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, pursuant to [§3.58\(d\)](#) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the Board of Directors of The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts (NYCDA) is requesting that the New York State Board of Regents (BOR) grant an additional extension of its provisional degree-conferring authority from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2025.

Additionally, in follow-up to the letter provided on May 30, 2025, pursuant to [§3.58\(g\)](#), the Board of Directors is applying to surrender, in whole, its degree-conferring authority effective September 1, 2025. NYCDA met all institutional responsibilities prescribed in [§3.58\(h\)](#) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, in that:

- a) As of May 19, 2025, the College ceased enrollment of new students in all registered programs.
- b) As of August 29, 2025, the College ceased operations of all registered programs. No students remained enrolled at NYCDA after this date.
- c) As of August 29, 2025, all students who completed degree requirements were awarded their degrees. Enrolled students who did not complete degree requirements in time for August 29, 2025, conferral were presented with teach-out options at American Academy of Dramatic Arts and Five Towns College, and other opportunities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Knott

Lisa Knott
Chief Executive Officer
The New York Conservatory
for Dramatic Arts