





TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: Saint Joseph's Seminary and College: Master plan amendment to establish a branch campus and offer a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program in Theology

DATE: November 3, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Saint Joseph's Seminary and College to establish a branch campus in Poughkeepsie, NY, and offer its first program at that location, a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Theology?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its November 2016 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Saint Joseph's Seminary and College has submitted an application for a master plan amendment to open a branch campus in Poughkeepsie, NY, and a proposal for a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Theology to be offered at that location.

Master plan amendment is required because the institution is establishing a branch campus and its first program at that location.

Background Information

Saint Joseph's Seminary and College seeks a master plan amendment to allow it to establish a branch campus at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, which is owned by the Archdiocese of New York, in Poughkeepsie, NY. The institution proposes to offer a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Theology at that location.

Current locations for Saint Joseph's Seminary and College include the main campus in Yonkers, NY, and branch campuses in Huntington, NY, and Douglaston, NY. The M.A. program in Theology is registered by the Department at each of those locations.

In the fall of 2015, the Archdiocese of New York commissioned Saint Joseph's Seminary and College to provide a solid grounding in Theology for those who will serve the Catholic Church as Deacons. The Seminary suggests that, because the Archdiocese of New York is so large geographically, candidates for the Diaconate in the northern counties of the Archdiocese who cannot easily travel to the main campus in Yonkers would benefit from a Poughkeepsie branch campus.

The curriculum for the M.A. program in Theology consists of 39 credit hours of study (13 courses: 9 core and 4 elective) and a capstone requirement. The projected enrollment for the program at the proposed branch campus is anticipated to be 3-5 students in Year 1 and 25-30 students in Year 5.

An academic review of faculty, curriculum and other program elements has been completed by the Department. The Department has determined that the proposed degree program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

In July 2016, following its standard protocol, the Department canvassed the degree-granting institutions in the Regents region where the proposed branch campus would be located (Hudson Valley Region). Two institutions responded; neither objected.

Related Regents Items

A related charter petition for establishment of the branch campus will also be before the Board at the November 2016 meeting.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Saint Joseph's Seminary and College to establish a branch campus in Poughkeepsie, NY, and to offer its first program at that location, a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Theology. The amendment will be effective until November 15, 2017, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will proceed to register the program.