



**TO:** Higher Education Committee  
**FROM:** John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*  
**SUBJECT:** Change in Scope of Institutional Accreditation: Phillips  
Beth Israel School of Nursing

**DATE:** February 3, 2014

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *JL D'Agati*

**SUMMARY**

### **Issue for Decision**

Should the Board of Regents grant a change in the scope of institutional accreditation of Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing?

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

Required by State regulation.

### **Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the Higher Education Committee at its February 2014 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken. It will then come before the full Board at its February 2014 meeting for final action.

### **Procedural History**

On January 10, 2012, the Board of Regents granted institutional accreditation to Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing for a period of five years. Last month, the Board of Regents approved a master plan amendment to authorize the institution to offer its first program at the baccalaureate level. The Department's Office of the Professions subsequently registered the program associated with that action, a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Nursing. As a result of that new authorization, the School has applied to the Regents for a change in scope of its institutional accreditation.

## **Background Information**

A Regents-accredited institution that undergoes a substantive change is required to apply for a change in the scope of its accreditation. Section 4.1-5(d) of Regents Rules defines actions that require a change in the scope of an institution's accreditation. It also describes the process for considering such substantive changes.

The School's new authority to offer a bachelor's degree constitutes a substantive change for accreditation purposes. As a result, the School submitted an application for a change in scope of accreditation. The purpose of such an application is to document that the change does not adversely affect the institution's capacity to meet the accreditation standards defined under sections 4-1.3 and 4-1.4 of Regents Rules.

The School's progression to the baccalaureate level is a significant change, but the School remains as a highly specialized institution dedicated to the preparation of registered nurses. Based on the application submitted by the institution, the Department finds that the new degree level does not compromise the institution's ability to meet accreditation standards related to the School's mission; assessment of student achievement; resources; administration; support services; admissions; consumer information; and related technical processes. Likewise, the School's documentation of steps to support the delivery of the new Bachelor of Science curriculum, both in this application and through materials provided to the Office of the Professions for program registration purposes, provides assurances of the School's capacity to continue to satisfy critical accreditation standards addressing faculty and programs of study.

The Department finds that the School's move to the baccalaureate level does not compromise the institution's ability to continue to meet Regents accreditation standards. As a result, the Department recommends approval of a change in scope of accreditation for Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing, in recognition of the institution's offering of baccalaureate programs.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following accreditation action regarding Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing:

***Approve a change in scope of the institutional accreditation of Phillip Beth Israel School of Nursing to include registered baccalaureate programs in the field of nursing.***

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.