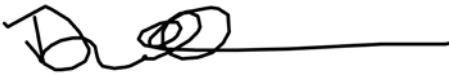




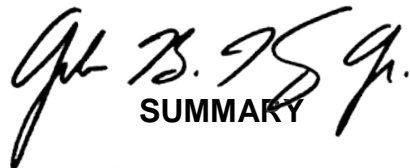
TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech



SUBJECT: The State University of New York Empire State College:
Authorization to Award the Master of Science (M.S.)
Degree

DATE: April 11, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents authorize the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York to confer the Master of Science (M.S.) degree on qualified students successfully completing registered programs at the State University of New York Empire State College?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its April 2013 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

At its June 12, 2012 meeting, the State University of New York Board of Trustees adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to seek the authorization of the Board of Regents for the State University of New York Empire State College to confer the degree of Master of Science (M.S.).

Background Information

Paragraph (f) of subdivision (2) of §355 of the Education Law authorizes the State University Board of Trustees:

To grant all degrees, diplomas and certificates which heretofore [i.e., July 1, 1948] have been granted or have been authorized to be granted upon the completion of courses of study in any state-operated institution which now is or hereafter may be in the state university, prior to the acquisition of such institution by the state university, and also such other degrees as the regents may hereafter specifically authorize them to grant.

SUNY has approved Empire State College's request to offer M.S. degrees in Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, and Nursing Informatics. Degree authorization is necessary as the M.S. degree represents Empire State College's first use of the Master of Science degree title. Board of Regents approval of this authorization will allow the registration of acceptable programs leading to the M.S. degree.

Need: Given the dwindling pool of qualified nurse educators, the need for clinical nurse leaders and nurses skilled in informatics and technology associated with health care, the proposed programs will help reduce shortages in critical areas of professional nursing practice and education at the master's level in New York. While there are over 20 public, independent, and proprietary institutions with registered Nursing Education graduate programs, only five (5) institutions offer a graduate Nursing Education program online. There are even fewer online programs in Nursing Administration and Nursing Informatics. The proposed online programs accommodate the responsibilities of the adult learner and provide access to flexible, affordable graduate education.

Admission: Applicants must be licensed and currently registered to practice professional nursing and be graduates of an accredited nursing program with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing or related field. Additionally, students must have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and submit two professional letters of recommendation. The College will transfer up to 9 credits of acceptable graduate coursework.

Curriculum: The College has an existing undergraduate program in Nursing. The proposed programs at the graduate level are in the same HEGIS subject field and have three distinct concentrations: Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, and Nursing Informatics. The concentrations share a common core of 18 credits in theoretical and professional courses. Each area of concentration has specialized course work (18 credits for Nursing Education; 9 credits for Nursing Administration; and 9 credits for Nursing Informatics) to meet professional standards and accreditation criteria. In addition, each program includes a capstone experience and a three-credit graduate elective from nursing or a related field. The proposed programs in Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, and Nursing Informatics support the College's mission to provide academic opportunities that will prepare individuals for service,

leadership and successful careers, and is consistent with its strategic plan to increase programmatic diversity.

Resources: Empire State College currently offers graduate programs leading to the Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Business Administration (M.B.A), and Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T), and as such has the academic infrastructure to support additional graduate degree programs. The proposed programs will be housed at the College's Coordinating Center in Saratoga Springs and will be offered online via the ANGEL learning management system. Online learning resources and well-developed instructional design and training resources are available at the College. The College's seven regional centers will provide local academic and administrative support services for students and faculty. There will not be any major facility needs to implement the proposed program. The College allocated \$20,000 to the library for the proposed program's development needs, and other library resources and databases are sufficient to meet the instructional needs of the proposed program. The total start-up budget for the program is \$238,501, with \$198,701 allocated to personnel costs. In addition to the current cadre of faculty and in anticipation of program approval, one new full-time faculty with a doctoral degree and one academic advisor have been hired for the 2012-2013 academic year. The college has committed to adding the following positions for the 2013-2014 academic year: one associate dean, one full-time tenure track faculty member, one full-time advisor, and one support staff. New faculty will be credentialed with an M.S. degree in nursing and a doctoral degree in nursing or a related field. Experience in teaching at the graduate level and in the online environment is required.

The Department has determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize the SUNY Board of Trustees to award the Master of Science degree on students successfully completing registered M.S. programs at Empire State College effective April 23, 2013.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Regents approve the degree authorization, the Department will register the M.S. programs in Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, and Nursing Informatics.