



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Touro College: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Nursing program at its Valhalla campus

DATE: March 23, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Touro College to establish a proposed *Nursing* program leading to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree at its Branch Campus in Valhalla, NY?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its April 2017 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

On September 27, 2016, Touro College submitted a request for Board of Regents approval for an amendment to its master plan to authorize the College to offer a Bachelor of Science degree for an upper-division *Nursing* program at its Valhalla Branch Campus. A master plan amendment is necessary as this is the institution's first baccalaureate degree program in the health professions discipline at the Branch Campus.

Background Information

Purpose, Goals and Relationship to Existing Programs: Touro College's mission is to be "...a college where personal growth, scholarship and research are fostered and where men and women are prepared for productive lives of dignity, value, and values". With its focus on personal growth and scholarship, the proposed program is closely related to the College's mission and other programs the College offers in the Health Sciences. The Touro College strategic plan for 2015 – 2020 identified a goal to serve the community by providing educational opportunities for health professionals. This program will establish an accessible educational option for nurses in the Hudson Valley and support career mobility for Registered Professional Nurses (R.N.) with Associate degrees through seamless transfer to a baccalaureate level *Nursing* program. The College has entered into an articulation agreement with Westchester Community College to achieve this goal. The proposed program, similar to the currently registered Touro College program approved in 2013 at its main campus in Manhattan, will provide an alternative for students who value the traditional classroom experience that is web enhanced and live in the area of the Valhalla Campus.

Admissions Requirements: Students seeking admission to the proposed upper-division B.S. *Nursing* program must be graduates of an accredited associate degree nursing program with a minimum 2.5 grade point average, and hold an unencumbered R.N. license and current registration in New York State. A minimum of 60 credits from the AAS degree program will be awarded as transfer credit including a minimum of 30 credits in nursing course work.

Curriculum: The proposed program requires a minimum of 120 credits for completion: 60 transfer credits from the associate degree program, 21 upper-division nursing credits, and 39 credits in liberal arts and science. The program will be offered in full and part-time formats with an evening-weekend option to accommodate working nurses. The required nursing courses include Health Assessment and Promotion, Client Education across the Life Span, Populations at Risk, Professional Nursing Practice, Community Health Nursing, Advanced Leadership, Nursing Research, and Evidence Based Practice. Imbedded in the nursing courses is 135 hours of clinical practice. There are 21 credits of required liberal arts and science courses including Pathophysiology, College Mathematics, Statistics, Genetics and Genomics, English Composition and Writing II, and Computer Concepts. Additionally all students must complete six credits in literature, six credits in history courses, and a one credit community service project. The curriculum includes five credits of free electives.

Prospective Student Body and Projected Enrollment: The College plans to enroll 20 students in the fall 2017 semester and 20 students in the spring 2018 semester for 40 students for the first year of operation. The plan is to increase enrollment incrementally to 40 students per semester. It is expected that many students will be recent graduates of the Westchester Community College license-qualifying *Nursing* program. Additional prospective students will be local nurses from Westchester Medical Center who prefer completing their courses in a blended environment of online and classroom instruction.

Facilities, Equipment, and Faculty: The program will be offered at the Touro College Branch Campus in Valhalla that includes the grounds of the New York Medical College (NYMC), and other Touro College programs including dentistry and biology education-Grade 7-12, as well as administrative offices. Facilities include well-apportioned classrooms; two have been specifically designated for nursing, and each accommodates 25 students. Individual office space for program administrators and nursing faculty has been identified. There is conference space, student study areas, lounge, and cafeteria. The Blackboard Learning Management System will provide the platform for course web enhancements. Computers and wireless

internet are readily accessible. Inter-institutional agreements allow students to access online databases and full-text resources from NYMC library, as well as the extensive nursing collection at the Touro College library. The proposed budget allows for the expansion of the current holdings to include resources on health policy, project management, nursing management, quality, and safety standards for nursing and healthcare and ethics. All required texts will be maintained in the reference library. There is access to a simulation center for interdisciplinary learning experiences. NYMC has agreed to share their well-equipped Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) laboratory for teaching health assessment. In 2017-2018, the budgeted equipment money will be used to augment the supplies and equipment in the current lab.

An associate director, a full-time nursing faculty member, and an administrative assistant will be hired for the branch campus for the first year. Additionally, adjunct faculty members will be hired for the 2017-2018 academic year. Thereafter, there will be a team of two full-time faculty and adjuncts as needed. Program governance will remain within the established structure of the main campus through the School of Health Sciences and its Department of Nursing. Branch campus faculty will participate in meetings at the main campus using video-conferencing technology.

Student Employment Prospects: In *Trends in New York Registered Nurse Graduations, 2005-2016* from the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the School of Public Health, SUNY Albany, it was reported that, of the surveyed deans/directors of NYS *Nursing* programs, 56% indicated that “many jobs” were available for new graduates. This is an increase in 27 percentage points from the 2014 survey report. Additionally, it was reported that the job market in 2015 was much better for newly trained RNs holding a baccalaureate degree than for those with an associate’s degree in nursing. As reported in the Institute of Medicine (IOM, 2010), nurses with baccalaureate level education have been shown to enhance quality of care, improve health outcomes, and lower healthcare costs. Additionally, the IOM recommends that nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression. The Future of Nursing report (IOM, 2010) recommends the percentage of nurses holding BS degrees be raised from 50% to 80% by 2020. Furthermore, Westchester Medical Center and community-based nursing agencies project the need for approximately 500 RNs to earn a B. S. degree to reach the 80- 100% goal. American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet initiative seeks to promote a goal of 100% baccalaureate prepared nurses. Touro College intends to address local needs and national goals through this program.

Canvass Results: A canvass of the institutions of the Hudson Valley region was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. No objections were received. One letter of support was provided by SUNY Westchester Community College.

Recommendation

Voted: That the Board of Regents approve the amendment to the master plan of Touro College authorizing the College to offer the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Nursing at its Valhalla campus.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the upper-division *Nursing* program leading to the B.S. degree effective April 4, 2017.