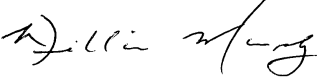





**TO:** The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** William P. Murphy 

**SUBJECT:** Long Island Business Institute: Application for surrender of degree-conferring authority

**DATE:** April 4, 2024

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**  **SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent)**

Should the Board of Regents accept the application from Long Island Business Institute to surrender its degree-conferring authority pursuant to section 3.589(g)(1) of the Rules of the Board of Regents?

**Reason for Consideration**

Required by Regents rules.

**Proposed Handling**

The issue will come before the Full Board for action at its April 2024 meeting.

**Procedural History**

Long Island Business Institute (LIBI), a proprietary institution of higher education in New York State, applied to the Department to surrender its degree-conferring authority.

**Background Information**

Section 3.58(g)(1) of the Rules of the Board of Regents describes the process for a proprietary institution to apply to surrender its degree-conferring authority. Section 3.58(g)(2) requires that the Board of Regents make a determination whether to accept that request.

In October 2021, the Board of Regents voted not to renew its recognition as an institutional accrediting agency with the United States Department of Education (USDE). The last day of institutional accreditation by the Board was on May 9, 2023.

Long Island Business Institute (LIBI), one of the institutions accredited by the Board of Regents at the time of the vote, commenced the application process for

institutional accreditation with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in December 2021. LIBI achieved candidacy status with ACCJC in June 2023.

In August 2023, LIBI was notified by the Federal Student Aid (FSA) division of the USDE that its application for recertification for Title IV funding would not be approved commensurate with federal regulation requiring proprietary institutions to be fully accredited in order to be eligible to participate in Title IV funding. At that time, among other requirements, the USDE required LIBI to cease enrollment of new students. The institution ceased enrollment of new students in all registered programs on October 10, 2023, while its appeal to the USDE was being considered. On October 18, 2023, LIBI was informed by the FSA that the institution's request for an exception to the proprietary institution rule on full accreditation was denied.

In November 2023, LIBI's Board of Directors notified the Department of its decision to close the institution. Teach-out partners were identified, and memoranda of understanding were established with Five Towns College and Empire State University. Five Towns College committed to serving as the custodian of student records.

On January 11, 2024, the ACCJC voted to award full initial accreditation to LIBI. On January 12, 2024, the institution awarded degrees to enrolled students who completed degree requirements. The timing of the graduation ensured that LIBI students graduated from a fully accredited institution.

On March 4, 2024, the Chairperson of the LIBI's Board of Directors applied to surrender (Attachment A), in whole, its degree-conferring authority, pursuant to §3.58(g)(1) of the Rules of the Board of Regents. The application stated that the institution had met all institutional responsibilities required by §3.58(h).

### **Related Regents Items**

Not applicable.

### **Recommendation**

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

VOTED: That, pursuant to §3.58(g)(2) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the Board of Regents accepts the request from Long Island Business Institute to surrender, in whole, its degree-conferring authority.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

If accepted by the Board of Regents, the request from Long Island Business Institute to surrender its degree-conferring authority will become effective on April 15, 2024.

**Attachment A**



3/4/2024

Dear Emily J. Sutherland,

pursuant to § 3.58(g) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the Board of Directors of Long Island Business Institute is applying to the New York State Board of Regents to surrender, in whole, its degree-conferring authority, effective January 27, 2024. By such date, LIBI met all institutional responsibilities prescribed in §3.58(h) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, in that:

1. As of October 10, 2023, the College ceased enrollment of new students in all registered programs.
2. As of January 12, 2024, the students who completed degree requirements were awarded their degrees. Enrolled students who did not complete degree requirements in time for the January 12, 2024 conferral were presented with teach-out options at Empire State University, SUNY, and Five Towns College.
3. As of January 27, 2024, the college ceased operation of all registered programs. No students remained enrolled at LIBI after this date.

Thank You

Qian, Yue Wei Board Chair