



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: William P. Murphy *William P. Murphy*
SUBJECT: Permission to Operate: Baylor University
DATE: April 23, 2020
AUTHORIZATION(S): *Sharam L. Taha*

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents grant Baylor University permission to offer a program in New York City (NYC), known as Baylor in New York, in which Baylor University students may take courses applicable to their undergraduate degree programs?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Full Board at its May 2020 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

N/A

Background Information

Baylor University (Baylor), a private, nonprofit institution located in Waco, TX, has submitted an application for permission to operate with a physical presence in New York State, pursuant to Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. Baylor has submitted this application at the request of the New York State Education Department in order to come into compliance with New York State requirements for the operation of out-of-State institutions with a physical presence in New York State. Baylor has been offering a semester away program in New York City since 2003. This program is available solely to undergraduate students who are matriculated at Baylor.

Baylor in New York is offered in fall and spring semesters and consists of 12 semester credit hours of coursework. Credits are applicable to Baylor’s Film and Digital Media major, but students majoring in other areas are eligible to apply to the program as well. All students take a three-credit course called “Communication and Culture,” a three-credit course dedicated to a film and digital media topic, a three-credit independent study “Professional Development” course, and a three-credit internship course, which is academically overseen by a Baylor professor.

No Baylor degree is awarded in the State of New York. Credits from this program are applied to the Baylor undergraduate degree awarded in Waco, Texas. Approximately 30 students are expected to enroll in Baylor in New York each year over the next five years of operation in New York State.

Baylor has indicated that this program addresses the needs of its undergraduate students. Baylor in New York was developed to enhance the professional exposure and experience of participating students and to help them obtain employment after graduation. Coursework takes advantage of the industries and cultural institutions of New York City.

Baylor is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. A Department review has indicated that the program for which the institution seeks authorization is comparable in quality to the standards for the registration of similar programs in New York.

The Department solicited input from existing colleges and universities concerning Baylor in New York’s impact on the institutions and their programs. No New York State institutions lodged any objections or statements of negative impact regarding this program.

Related Regents Items

N/A

Recommendation

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents grant Baylor University permission to offer a program in New York City, known as Baylor in New York, in which Baylor students may take courses applicable to their undergraduate degree programs. This permission will be effective May 5, 2020 and end on May 30, 2025.

Timetable for Implementation

Subsequent renewals of this permission to operate, if sought, will be subject to the terms of Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. If Baylor University seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term, it must notify the Department no later than May 30, 2024.