
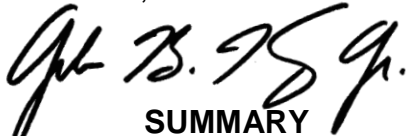




TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: Touro College Branch Campus
at Middletown, New York
DATE: June 16, 2014
AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents approve the master plan amendment for Touro College to operate a branch campus at Middletown, New York?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its June 2014 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken. A related charter petition for establishment of the branch campus will also be before the Board at the June meeting.

Procedural History

Touro College seeks approval of a master plan amendment to establish a branch campus in Middletown, NY, to offer a program in Osteopathic Medicine leading to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree. A master plan amendment is needed to authorize both the establishment of the branch campus and the degree program proposed for the campus.

Background Information

Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine offers a four year graduate program leading to the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) at the Harlem Campus.

The College is seeking the Board of Regents' approval for an amendment to its master plan to authorize the College to establish a branch campus at 60 Prospect Avenue, Middletown, NY 10940, to offer a D.O. program.

Purpose and Goals of the Program and the Relationship to the Mission: The purpose of the program is to recruit and train underrepresented minorities in medicine and train physicians to practice in underserved communities as primary care physicians. Orange and Sullivan Counties currently have a considerable number of hospitals, but there are no local medical schools to provide a path for future physicians. The Middletown Campus will work toward increasing the number of physicians in these counties. This is in alignment with the mission and commitment of the College to the transmission of knowledge, social justice, and compassionate concern for, and service to, society.

Admission Requirements: To be eligible for admission into the program, a student must possess minimum standards of pre-academic training in the areas of English, Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Behavioral Sciences, including appropriate laboratory courses, graduation from an accredited college with a bachelor's degree, a minimum GPA of 3.0 in science courses, and a minimum MCAT score of 27. The application will be processed through the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS).

Curriculum: The curriculum stresses the interdependence of the biological, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences. The first and second years of courses will be taught at the Middletown Campus for a total of 102 credits, and the third and fourth years primarily at affiliated hospitals in the Mid-Hudson region area for a total of 126 credits; students will be required to earn a minimum of 228 credits to graduate. Students take didactic courses during the first and second years of study. The lectures are available to students as downloadable files through the application of iTunes. The use of pre-recorded audio/video files enables the program to provide basic lectures to its students, while faculty work with students in class to assure that they understand the concepts and their clinical applications. Students perform their third and fourth year clinical rotations in affiliated hospitals where they are supervised by a Director of Medical Education, with licensed physicians teaching didactic and clinical skills to the students in clinical services such as Family Medicine, OB/GYN, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Surgery, and Pediatrics.

Prospective Student Body and Projected Enrollment: The student body of the Middletown Campus will be rich in academic preparation and will possess knowledge and an appreciation for osteopathic medicine and its contribution to the health care delivery system. The student body will also possess experiences in research as well as participation in a variety of academic, clinical, community, and societal volunteerism.

The student body selected for the inaugural class in 2014 will be fully qualified men and women who have prepared themselves for the rigors of medical education, who will abide by the code of conduct and professionalism of the American Osteopathic Association, and who will adhere to the principles of the Hippocratic Oath.

The first medical school class of 2014 will have 135 students. In the second year, there will be 270 students. In the third year the school will have 405 students, and in the fourth year of the medical school there will be 540 students in training. From the fifth year forward, there will be 540 students matriculated at the medical school each year.

Facilities, Equipment, and Faculty: The Middletown Campus is renovating the Horton facility at 60 Prospect Avenue in Middletown, New York, to provide medical students and the region with a 130,000-square foot medical school with clinical facilities, an Anatomy Laboratory, an Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Laboratory, Objective Structured Clinical Examination rooms, classrooms, and study rooms along with a library and student housing. The facility will use technology, including iTunes as well as holograms. To facilitate this, the College has the required financial resources to fund the establishment of a new medical school at the Middletown Campus and has committed \$29 million to the project, with \$18 million for the renovation of the facility, \$2 million in equipment expenses, and \$9 million for working capital. It will use an additional \$1,500,000 of eligible funding for renovation and miscellaneous costs.

There will be a total of 26 full-time faculty and an additional 14.5 FTE (from the adjunct lines) employed when the medical school is in its fourth year of operation, at a yearly cost of \$4 million. The Middletown Campus will have sufficient, appropriately trained faculty on campus and at affiliated and educational teaching sites to deliver the four-year curriculum and to meet the mission of its program; faculty members will hold terminal degrees in their specialty areas of basic science and medicine.

Prospects for Employment/Further Education for Graduates: There is a national shortage of primary care physicians. Over the last twenty years, Sullivan County ranked 61 out of 62 New York counties in Health Outcomes as reported in 2012 by the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. If left unchecked, these factors could have a damaging impact on the future of public health. Touro College has responded to the national medical shortage by establishing medical schools in Vallejo, California; Henderson, Nevada; and Harlem, New York. The presence of the Middletown Campus will address the training pipeline issue and increase medical delivery services regionally, thus helping to improve health indicators.

As part of receiving and maintaining accreditation from the Commission on Osteopathic Colleges Accreditation (COCA), there is a process required to develop clinical rotations for all its students during the third and fourth years of clinical training, as well as to develop residency programs at affiliated hospitals for its graduates to further their medical education across a number of medical specialties including, but not limited to, OB/GYN, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, etc. The process prescribed by COCA assures that the qualified students graduating from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine will be fully trained to enter a career in medicine.

Canvass Results: A canvass was conducted of all institutions in the Hudson Valley Region and all institutions offering M.D. or D.O. programs. There were no objections to the proposed program or branch campus.

Recommendation

The Department has determined that the proposed branch campus, if approved, would meet the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the amendment to the master plan of Touro College to operate a branch campus in Middletown, New York. This amendment will be effective until June 24, 2015, unless the branch campus is registered by the Department prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the D.O. program will be registered.