



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
SUBJECT: Permission to Operate: University of Texas at Austin
DATE: May 23, 2019
AUTHORIZATION(S): *Mary Ellen Elin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents grant permission for the University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) to offer coursework applicable to its undergraduate degrees, known as UT Semester in New York Program (UTNY)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its June 2019 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

N/A

Background Information

UT-Austin has applied to the Department for permission to operate its UT Semester in New York Program (UTNY) under Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. The only students eligible for this program are students currently enrolled at UT-Austin who have earned a minimum of 60 college credits. This approval will not allow the institution to offer this program as a stand-alone program for students not already matriculated at UT-Austin.

UTNY would be supported by UT-Austin's provost's office, as well as three of its colleges: The Moody College of Communication, the College of Fine Arts, and the McCombs Business School. The institution has proposed to offer its students the opportunity to earn 12 semester credit hours in New York during a fall, spring, or summer term. Students would participate in a six-credit semester-long internship that requires 300 hours (20 hours per week) of supervised work, in addition to supplementary assignments. Students would have an on-site supervisor based in the New York organization hosting the internship and a faculty supervisor based at UT-Austin. In addition to the internship, all students would take a three-credit seminar titled Leadership and Urban Engagement, which explores topics such as making hard decisions, working collaboratively, building consensus, risk and reward, learning from success and failure, managing conflict, and promoting positive change. The final three credits would be one of three elective courses: Urban Communication, Inside the Visual and Performing Arts of New York City, or Principles of Marketing. The institution expects this program to serve 135 students in the first year and 260 students by the fifth year of operation. UT-Austin currently offers similar study away/internship programs in Los Angeles, CA and Washington, DC.

UT-Austin reports that the need for this program is driven by a combination of student interest and demand for its graduates by New York-based firms. An interest survey of UT-Austin students was conducted by the institution and over 800 respondents expressed immediate interest in a potential UTNY program. In 2018, over 100 firms in New York City provided internship opportunities to students from UT-Austin, and the institution names several New York-based companies who travel to the UT-Austin campus to recruit students and/or have made employment offers to recent UT-Austin graduates. The institution indicates that there are 14,500 alumni of UT-Austin in New York, predominately working in financial services firms, traditional and new media companies, professional services organizations (advertising, public relations, and organizational communication), as well as in live and recorded entertainment.

UT-Austin is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. A Department review indicated that UT-Austin demonstrates an institutional quality comparable to New York State degree-granting institutions and its programs are comparable in quality to the standards for registration of similar programs in New York.

Consistent with the master planning process described in Education Law §237 and §137 of Chapter 82 of the Laws of 1995, the Department solicited input from existing degree-granting institutions concerning the need for this proposed program and its impact on existing institutions and programs. No New York State institutions lodged any objections or statements of negative impact regarding this proposed program.

Related Regents Items

N/A

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents grant the University of Texas at Austin permission to offer coursework applicable to its undergraduate degrees, known as UT Semester in New York Program (UTNY) effective June 4, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2024.

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 UT-Austin seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term, it must notify the Department no later than June 30, 2023.