



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
SUBJECT: St. Joseph's Seminary and College: Master plan amendment to establish two branch campuses

DATE: July 15, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S):

John B. P. G.
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

St. Joseph's Seminary and College in Yonkers seeks Regents approval of a master plan amendment authorizing the Seminary to establish two branch campuses - one in Huntington, Long Island, and the other in Queens.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its July 2013 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken. A related charter petition for establishment of the two branch campuses will also be before the Board at the July meeting.

Procedural History

St. Joseph's Seminary and College submitted a request for this master plan amendment to the Department in September 2012.

Master plan amendment is required because the programs to be offered at the proposed branch campuses will be the first offered by the Seminary at those locations.

Background Information

The plan described below has come about through an agreement among the following three Catholic dioceses: the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Brooklyn, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. With the Seminary as the degree-granting institution, these dioceses intend to combine their resources to better serve seminarians, laity, and candidates for the permanent diaconate. By constituting the two proposed locations as branch campuses, the Seminary will be able to reach a larger number of students across a wider area. The proposed branch campuses will thus allow the Seminary and the noted dioceses to make more efficient use of their resources in supporting the programs that will be continued.

Proposed branch in Huntington:

The proposed location in Huntington is currently the campus of the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception (“SIC”), which now offers several master’s-level programs in the theological disciplines. In the proposed plan, St. Joseph’s Seminary would become the sole degree-granting entity, taking over responsibility and degree-granting authority of the following master’s-level programs now offered by SIC; these would continue to be offered at the Huntington location, but under the auspices of St. Joseph’s Seminary:

- M.A. in Pastoral Studies
- M.A. in Theology

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program and three Advanced Certificate programs now offered by the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception will be discontinued. The degree programs that will be taken over by St. Joseph’s Seminary flow directly from the Seminary’s mission to form and educate candidates for priestly ordination and to provide graduate-level theological education to laity, religious, and candidates for the diaconate.

The proposed location on West Neck Road in Huntington is approximately 40 miles from the campus of St. Joseph’s Seminary and College. The proposed branch campus will be overseen by an Associate Dean, who will report directly to the Academic Dean at the Seminary in Yonkers. In addition, a full-time Registrar and secretary will be present at the proposed branch. This includes six classrooms plus conference room space, and a library collection that includes 47,000 monographs, 5,800 bound periodicals, and a range of curriculum-appropriate research databases. There are currently 80 students enrolled at the Huntington location, who have been surveyed in the planning process. Those who have not completed their programs at the time of the establishment of the branch campus will matriculate at St. Joseph’s Seminary in order to complete their degrees.

Proposed branch in Douglaston (Queens):

The second location, in Queens, is the campus of the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation, which relinquished degree-granting authority in 1990. It currently functions as a residence hall for college seminarians and pre-theologians. This location is approximately 19 miles from the St. Joseph's Seminary campus. The proposed branch campus will have a Program Administrator, who will report to the Academic Dean at the Seminary, as well as support staff. The Program Administrator will supervise the M.A. in Catholic Philosophical Studies planned to be offered at this proposed branch campus. This program is intended for those candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood who have earned baccalaureate degrees in other disciplines, but require the philosophical background to begin theological studies for the priesthood.

The proposed branch campus in Douglaston has four classrooms plus conference room space, and a library holding of 45,000 monographs, 90 bound periodicals, and a range of curriculum-appropriate research databases. There are currently 20 students enrolled in courses now being offered at this location under the aegis of SIC; those who have not completed their program at the time of the establishment of the branch campus will matriculate as students of St. Joseph's Seminary.

St. Joseph's Seminary Main campus in Yonkers:

The following programs will continue to be offered on the main campus of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, along with the M.A. in Pastoral Studies:

- M.A. in Theology
- M.Div. in Theology
- Advanced Certificates in Dogmatic Theology, Liturgy, Moral Theology and Scripture

Faculty:

St. Joseph's Seminary and College has submitted a detailed plan for faculty deployment at the three proposed locations through the 2015 summer term. Based on the academic requirements necessary to offer the degrees in the targeted locations, 17 full-time faculty members have been appointed to bear the primary teaching responsibility for all academic programs, 13 of whom are based at the Seminary's main campus; 3 at the proposed Huntington branch campus; and 1 full-time faculty at Douglaston, in addition to the Program Administrator cited above. Resources have been allocated to cover travel expenses for faculty members teaching at more than one location.

Following standard protocol for master plan amendments, the Department conducted a canvass of all colleges and universities in the Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island regions. There were eight responses, seven of which indicated that they had no comment or that the proposed action would have no impact on their institutions; one response fully endorsed and supported the initiative.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize St. Joseph's Seminary and College to establish two branch campuses and to offer graduate-level programs at those campuses. This amendment will be effective until July 23, 2014, unless the Department registers the programs at the branch campuses prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board approves the related charter petition and this master plan amendment, the Department will register the proposed programs at the new branch campuses, and the Seminary will recruit and enroll students in the programs.