



TO: Cultural Education Committee

FROM: Michael Mastroianni 

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of Section 3.12(a)(4) of the Rules of the Board of Regents Relating to the Regents Advisory Council on Museums

DATE: July 3, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S):  

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment of section 3.12(a)(4) of the Rules of the Board of Regents relating to the Regents Advisory Council on Museums to reduce the length of terms to three years and establish a limit of two consecutive terms?

Reason for Consideration

Review of policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is presented to the Cultural Education Committee for discussion at the July 2025 Regents meeting. A copy of the proposed rule (Attachment A) is attached.

Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on July 30, 2025, for a 60-day public comment period. Supporting materials are available upon request to the Secretary of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

The Regents Advisory Council on Museums provides strategic advice and consultation on statewide museum policy and services, pursuant to the Board of Regents' statutory authority to operate the New York State Museum and oversee

museums throughout New York State. The Council supports the advancement of educational, cultural, and community-serving goals through its collective expertise. The New York State Museum Director convenes and chairs the Council, which is currently composed of 10 distinguished leaders from across New York State's Museum community.

The Department proposes to amend section 3.12(a)(4) of the Rules of the Board of Regents to reduce term lengths from five years to three years and to establish a limit of two terms per Council member. Existing term lengths no longer align with the Council's composition or needs, and the proposed rule will strengthen the Council's effectiveness and better reflect its current structure and operations. Shorter terms and term limits will promote flexibility, encourage broader participation, and ensure regular infusion of new perspectives while supporting continuity and thoughtful succession planning. Overall, these updates modernize the Council's governance and position it to remain responsive, inclusive, and well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of New York's museum sector.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Timetable for Implementation

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the November 2025 Regents meeting, after publication of the proposed amendment in the State Register and expiration of the 60-day public comment period required under the State Administrative Procedure Act. If adopted at the November 2025 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on November 19, 2025.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 101, 207, and 305 of the Education Law.

Paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of section 3.12 of the Rules of the Board of Regents is amended to read as follows:

(4) Museum, 15 members. [One] Each member shall be appointed [yearly] to serve for a term of [five] three years [beginning with the first day of October next following the ending of the term to which each, respectively, is to succeed, except that an appointment to fill a vacancy created otherwise than by the expiration of a term shall be for the unexpired term]. Each member shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.