





**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** John L. D'Agati 

**SUBJECT:** Fei Tian College, Middletown: Master Plan Amendment to offer Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree programs in Biomedical Science and in Data Science

**DATE:** September 6, 2018

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

#### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment authorizing Fei Tian College to award the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree at its branch campus in Middletown?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the full Board at its September 2018 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken. A related charter petition to add authority to grant the Bachelor of Science degree at the Middletown branch campus will also be before the Board at the September 2018 meeting.

#### **Procedural History**

Fei Tian College submitted a proposal for degree programs to be registered at its branch campus located in Middletown, NY. An amendment of the College's charter and a master plan amendment are needed to grant the College the authority to offer the Bachelor of Science degree.

## **Background Information**

The Board of Regents granted an absolute charter to Fei Tian in 2014. The branch campus in Middletown, NY (Orange County), and programs in dance leading to BFA and MFA degrees, were approved by the Regents at its July 2018 meeting. Fei Tian College seeks authorization to award the Bachelor of Science degree for programs in Biomedical Science and Data Science at the Middletown campus.

The branch campus is located at 1 Ashley Avenue in the City of Middletown, about 12 miles from the College's main campus in Cuddebackville. The College has acquired 8 buildings and more than 100 acres of land at the Middletown site; almost 70,000 assignable square feet (ASF) has been remodeled to date to meet campus needs. Middletown is easily accessible via various modes of transportation and possesses urban amenities unavailable at the more rural main campus. The branch provides an opportunity to offer new educational options for students at a convenient location. Local government enthusiastically supports the development of additional programs at the branch campus.

The College proposes to offer the following programs at the branch location:

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Credential Awarded</b>
Biomedical Science	B.S.
Data Science	B.S.

The biomedical and data science programs are areas of study new to the College, designed based on findings from a comprehensive needs analysis considering employment projections and surveys of student interest. The two science programs are meant to complement and strengthen each other through an emphasis on the analysis of high-volume data. The data science program includes a "precision health" concentration emphasizing analysis for disease prediction and prevention considering an individual's needs and conditions, and a second concentration focused on data analysis for the creative economy. The biomedical program allows a student to concentrate on integrated health science, including Eastern and Western approaches, or preparation along more traditional lines of study. Projected enrollments in the first and fifth year are 15 and 25, respectively, for Biomedical Science and 10 and 14, respectively, for Data Science.

The faculty are well-qualified and sufficient in number for the proposed programs of study. There are six full-time and one part-time faculty available to teach in the Data Science program. Two additional full-time faculty will be hired within the next four years. The Biomedical Science faculty is comprised of four full-time positions and one part-time position. Two more full-time faculty will be hired within the next four years.

Consistent with its master planning process, the Department conducted a canvass of all degree-granting institutions in the Hudson Valley region. The Department received responses from two institutions. Neither had any objection to the proposal.

An academic review of the faculty, curriculum and other program elements has been completed by the Department. The Department has determined that the proposed

branch campus and programs meet the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In addition, external reviews of the proposed programs (faculty qualifications, proposed curricula, institutional resources, etc.) were conducted by faculty from other New York State degree-granting institutions who are knowledgeable in the proposed fields of study (Weill Cornell Medical College, SUNY Brockport, CUNY Hunter College, and Yeshiva University). The external reviews were positive and recommended approval of the proposed programs.

A charter amendment authorizing Fei Tian College to grant the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree at its branch campus is on the September 2018 Regents agenda.

### **Related Regents Items**

N/A

### **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of Fei Tian College to grant the Bachelor of Science degree at its branch campus in Middletown, NY. The amendment will be effective until September 18, 2019, unless the degree programs are registered prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the programs.