



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: Helene Fuld College of Nursing,
Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree in Nursing

DATE: December 2, 2011

AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of the Helene Fuld College of Nursing that authorizes the College to offer a nursing program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its December 2011 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

A master plan amendment is required because this would be the institution's first Bachelor of Science degree program.

Background Information

On May 26, 2011, Helene Fuld College of Nursing's Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to amend the College's charter to authorize the Helene Fuld College of Nursing to offer instruction leading to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Nursing.

Nursing education at Helene Fuld College of Nursing traces its origin to 1945 when the Hospital for Joint Diseases established a practical nursing program. Ten years later the

school was renamed the Helene Fuld School of Nursing in recognition of a grant provided by the Fuld family. In 1964, the School of Nursing was chartered by the Board of Regents as a single-purpose, hospital-based registered nursing program authorized to award the diploma in nursing. This program was the first in the country to restrict admission to licensed practical nurses, a policy that remains in effect today. In September 1975, the Board of Regents granted the School of Nursing a permanent charter and authority to award the Associate in Applied Science degree. The School of Nursing operated both practical nursing and registered nursing programs until October 1978 when the practical nursing program closed. The following year the School of Nursing's hospital affiliate became known as Joint Diseases North General Hospital, a name it kept until 1990 when it dropped the Joint Diseases designation. In 1996, the Board of Regents approved a name change for the School of Nursing to Helene Fuld College of Nursing of North General Hospital to better reflect the College's place as an institution of higher education. In 2007, the College of Nursing was granted approval from the Board of Regents to amend the College's charter to effect a legal separation between the College and North General Hospital making it an independent, single-purpose institution, and to change the name of the College from "Helene Fuld College of Nursing of North General Hospital" to "Helene Fuld College of Nursing".

Accreditation of the registered nursing program by the National League for Nursing and its successor the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) has been maintained continuously since 1981, with the next reaccreditation visit scheduled to occur in 2016. The Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools granted the institution initial accreditation in 1988. This accreditation has been maintained continuously, with the next review scheduled during the 2012-2013 academic year. The College intends to begin the process for NLNAC accreditation of the proposed program in 2014.

The proposed program supports the College's long-range plan to provide an expanded career ladder in nursing education that is supported by the liberal arts and sciences. The program's educational objectives are designed to prepare students for a broader scope of practice through a focus on the principles of Environmental Urban Health Nursing, which seeks to prevent disease by creating environments that foster optimum health in urban communities.

A 2010 Institute of Medicine report identified future actions for the nursing profession to include increasing the percentage of baccalaureate-prepared nurses from 50 percent to 80 percent by 2020, and encouraging nurses with associate degrees or diplomas to enter baccalaureate nursing programs within five years of graduation. The College surveyed alumni from its 2007, 2008 and 2009 graduating classes and found that approximately 90 percent of respondents indicated they would attend a baccalaureate program offered by the College.

The proposed program is an upper-division bachelor's degree completion program for registered nurses who are graduates of an associate degree or a diploma nursing program. The program will require completion of 63 semester hours of credit divided into 31 semester hours of nursing course work and 32 semester hours of credit in the liberal arts and sciences. The College will accept in transfer a total of 58 semester hours of lower-division course work consisting of 30 semester hours of credit in nursing and 28 semester hours of credit in the liberal arts and sciences. The minimum grade accepted for transfer credit of lower-division nursing and science courses is a C+. Clinical practice agreements have been developed with primary and tertiary care hospitals and community-based health care facilities where students will complete 4 credits (240 clock hours) of clinical course work.

Admission criteria include graduation from an associate degree or diploma nursing program that is accredited by the NLNAC or registered by the New York State Education Department, a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5, and licensure and current registration as a registered professional nurse. The anticipated start date for the program is fall 2012. Projected enrollment in the first year is 40 students. By the fifth year of operation, the anticipated enrollment is 108 students. Full-time students will be able to complete the program in 19 months. The program must be completed within four years of matriculation.

The College plans to fill two full-time positions (Program Coordinator and Clinical Coordinator) following registration of the program. Additional full-time and part-time nursing and liberal arts and sciences faculty will be hired as enrollment grows and new courses are introduced. Among the faculty teaching in the associate degree program, seven are projected to teach selected courses in the proposed program. All seven have master's degrees in nursing and four are doctorally prepared. Among the College's 39 full- and part-time liberal arts and sciences and nursing faculty who are teaching in the associate degree program, 16 have experience teaching at the baccalaureate level and are interested in teaching in the proposed program.

Since 1992, the College's associate degree nursing program has been located in 30,000 square feet of leased space on the third and fourth floors of a building at 120th Street and Madison Avenue in Manhattan. In April 2011, the College leased the balance of the fourth floor (4,400 square feet) to provide classroom, faculty office and student study space for the proposed program. The current lease runs through June 30, 2017, with an option to renew through June 30, 2021. Student support services and campus laboratories will be expanded to meet the needs of the proposed program. The College funds its operating budget from internally generated funds, primarily tuition and fees. The College does not have any short- or long-term debt except for that incurred in the normal course of business. Audited financial statements for the 2008, 2009 and 2010 fiscal years indicate a sound financial position, with cash and cash equivalents showing a net increase in each year-over-year comparison.

A canvass was conducted of all institutions in the New York City Regents Region. No objections were received regarding the proposed program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the proposed master plan amendment of Helene Fuld College of Nursing authorizing the College to offer the Bachelor of Science degree program in Nursing. This amendment will be effective until December 31, 2012, unless the Department registers the program 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 Department will register the program and the College will proceed to recruit and enroll program students.