



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

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

SUBJECT: Renewal of Permission to Operate in New York State:
New Brunswick Theological Seminary

DATE: April 6, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Elizabeth R. Berlin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents renew permission for New Brunswick Theological Seminary to offer courses from its Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program and Master of Divinity degree program at St. John's University in New York City?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board at its April 2015 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Background Information

The Department first granted New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS), located in New Brunswick, New Jersey, permission to offer courses from its Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program in Queens, NY in November 1984. The Seminary has offered courses since that time at the St. John's University campus under terms of a written agreement with St. John's University. The stated purpose of the agreement is "to promote ecumenical cooperation in graduate theological education."

New Brunswick Theological Seminary is a teaching institution of the Reformed Church in America, but trains persons from many other denominations for ministry. Total current enrollment at the Seminary is 176; there are 36 students currently taking courses offered in New York. In 2014-15, 13 courses from NBTS were offered at the St. John's University campus. The Seminary indicates that, since 2011, 21 students have completed coursework in New York and graduated.

Students matriculated in NBTS may enroll as visiting students in courses offered by St. John's Department of Theology and Religious Studies. The Seminary indicates that, of the faculty teaching in New York since 2011, 12 are from the Seminary's main campus and 6 were hired from the New York City area.

St. John's University provides two classrooms, physical space and administrative assistance for NTBS's director, academic and career advisement to supplement that provided by NTBS, student mailboxes, and parking. Students have access to the St. John's University library, its wireless internet services, reserve materials, and information literacy instruction. NTBS provides interlibrary loan service and remote access to its library.

Recommendation

VOTED, that the Board of Regents renew the Permission to Operate for New Brunswick Theological Seminary to offer courses from its Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program and Master of Divinity degree program under the terms of its agreement with St. John's University. This permission, effective April 14, 2015, is granted for a period beginning January 1, 2015, and extending through December 31, 2017, the end date of the Seminary's current agreement with St. John's University.