



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

SUBJECT: Concordia College: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Digital Media and Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree in Integrated Digital Media

DATE: July 13, 2015

AUTHORIZATIONS(S): *Mary Ellen Elin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Concordia College to offer a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Digital Media and a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree in Integrated Digital Media?

Reason for Consideration

Required by State Statute and State Regulation

Proposed Handling

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

Procedural History

Concordia College submitted a proposal for a M.A. degree program in Digital Media and a M.F.A. degree program in Integrated Digital Media.

Master plan amendment is required because this will be the College's first master's degree in the disciplinary area of the Fine Arts. A related petition for a charter amendment to add authority to grant the M.A. and the M.F.A. degrees will also be before the Board at the July meeting.

The Department has determined that the programs meet the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Background Information

Concordia College is an independent degree-granting institution located in Bronxville, New York offering associate degree programs in the areas of business and liberal arts; baccalaureate degree programs in business, biological sciences, education, fine arts, health professions, humanities, and social sciences; and master's degree programs in business, education, and humanities.

The proposed M.A. degree program in Digital Media is designed to integrate digital media production with critical analysis and writing, and to provide an emphasis on ethical and social awareness. The program will allow students to gain a broader understanding of the field, to develop the ability to think critically, and to regard media as a field that requires conscientious choices in subject and design. The proposed M.F.A. degree program in Integrated Digital Media integrates new technologies and multiple media in different forms of expression. The program centers on the artistic application of digital technology and provides technical, social, and aesthetic opportunities in order for students to successfully compete in the twenty-first century.

Both proposals are consistent with the College's mission to engage and nurture a diverse student body in a Christ-centered, value-oriented liberal arts education.

The proposed M.A. and M.F.A. degree programs will both be offered exclusively in the distance education format. The M.A. in Digital Media consists of 30 credits of courses in the marketing, design and production of digital media, including video production, game design and the psychology of media. The M.F.A. in Integrated Digital Media consists of 30 credits of courses in advanced media and digital video production, sound design and computer animation and a 6 credit Thesis Project/ Working Critique.

Following standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of all colleges and universities in the Hudson Valley Regents region. There were two responses indicating "no objection" to these proposals.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Concordia College to offer its first M.A. and M.F.A. degrees in the discipline of the Fine Arts. This amendment will be effective until July 30, 2016, unless the Department registers the programs prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the programs and the College will proceed to recruit and enroll students.