



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

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

**SUBJECT:** Pace University: Master Plan Amendment, Ph.D. in Nursing

**DATE:** March 2, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Pace University to offer its first doctoral degree in the Health Professions discipline, a Ph.D. in Nursing?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

**Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the full Board at its March 2017 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

**Procedural History**

Pace University (Pleasantville) has proposed a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Nursing. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program would be the University's first doctoral program in the Health Professions discipline.

**Background Information**

Pace University states that the purpose of the proposed program is to prepare nurse leaders for evidence-based primary health care. The program is designed to expand the knowledge base of nursing practice, health care management, and health care policy and economics through the research and scholarship of faculty and

students, and thus prepare nurse leaders as scientists, faculty, policymakers, and innovators in health care.

The proposed 45 credit full-time, cohort, post-masters curriculum incorporates elements derived from the findings of such organizations as American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the National League for Nursing, and the Institute of Medicine. The curriculum would include 18 credits of research courses, 18 credits of substantive nursing courses, 3-6 credits of electives, and 6 credits of dissertation seminars.

The University estimates that 70 percent of the student body would be drawn from the Hudson Valley Region, 20 percent from other regions of the State, and 10 percent out of state. The ethnic diversity of students is expected to mirror the current School of Nursing student body, with greater than half from underrepresented minority backgrounds. The program would admit 10 students each year, and the University projects that by the beginning of the 5th year there would be 46 students in the program. Initially, 15 nursing faculty are prepared to teach and participate in dissertation activities. In addition, qualified faculty from other departments would serve as dissertation committee members.

According to the University, AACN found that U.S. nursing schools turned away 68,938 qualified applicants from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2014 due to an insufficient number of faculty. Likewise, that organization reported 1,236 faculty vacancies in 714 nursing schools with baccalaureate and/or graduate programs. The University expects that national and State regional demands for Ph.D.-prepared nurses will continue to grow, in both education and practice settings.

Staff in the Office of Higher Education and the Office of the Professions determined that the program meets all standards for registration. As part of the master planning process, the Department canvassed institutions of higher education in the Hudson Valley region as well as all doctoral institutions in New York State. One institution responded; it offered no comment.

### **Related Regents Items**

N/A

### **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Pace University to offer its first doctoral program in the Health Professions discipline. The amendment will be effective until March 14, 2018, unless the Department registers the Ph.D. in Nursing program 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 program.