



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: William P. Murphy *William Murphy*
SUBJECT: Permission to Operate: Drew University
DATE: April 23, 2020
AUTHORIZATION(S): *Sharon L. Tabor*

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents grant permission for Drew University to offer a program in New York City, known as nycTREC, in which Drew University students may take courses applicable to their undergraduate degree programs?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Full Board at its May 2020 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

N/A

Background Information

Drew University (Drew), a private, nonprofit institution located in Madison, New Jersey, has submitted an application for permission to operate with a physical presence in New York State, pursuant to Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. Drew has submitted this application at the request of the New York State Education Department in order to come into compliance with New York State requirements for the operation of out-of-State institutions with a physical presence in New York State. Drew has been offering courses in New York City since 1962. This program is available solely to undergraduate students who are matriculated at Drew.

Drew's nycTREC program takes place in New York City and explores careers in fields closely connected to Drew's academic departments. The program includes seven tracks for in-depth study: The United Nations, contemporary art, Wall Street, communications and media, social entrepreneurship, theatre, and museums and society. Courses in this program incorporate direct interactions with organizations that are active in each of these subject areas. They are taught by Drew faculty in facilities leased by the institution. For each track, students commute to Manhattan to take eight credits of coursework. Students typically commute to New York City using public transportation, and the institution provides a stipend to cover commuting costs. Students take additional coursework at Drew's main campus in Madison, New Jersey.

Upon successful completion of the nycTREC program, students are awarded up to eight credits. No Drew degree is awarded in the State of New York. These credits are applied to the 128 credits required for the Drew undergraduate degree awarded in Madison, New Jersey. Between 100 and 140 students are expected to enroll in the nycTREC program each year over the next five years of operation in New York State.

Drew University has indicated that the nycTREC program responds to the need for students to gain workplace experience in a strongly articulated liberal arts context. The application indicates that employer surveys note that graduates lack the ability to work and write collaboratively as a team, and the nycTREC program focuses directly on these skills, both in the formal classroom and in field trips, externships, and interactions with speakers. Furthermore, the applicant indicates that the direct experience with companies and industries through nycTREC field trips and lectures help to connect students with high quality internships.

Drew is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. A Department review has indicated that the program for which the institution seeks authorization is comparable in quality to the standards for the registration of similar programs in New York.

The Department solicited input from existing colleges and universities concerning the nycTREC program's impact on the institutions and their programs. No New York State institutions lodged any objections or statements of negative impact regarding this program.

Related Regents Items

N/A

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents grant Drew University permission to offer a program in New York City, known as nycTREC, in which Drew students may take courses applicable to their undergraduate degree programs. This permission will be effective May 7, 2020 and end on May 30, 2025.

Timetable for Implementation

Subsequent renewals of this permission to operate, if sought, will be subject to the terms of Section 3.56 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. If Drew University seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term, it must notify the Department no later than May 30, 2024.