



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: William P. Murphy *William P. Murphy*
SUBJECT: Permission to Operate: Kent State University
DATE: April 23, 2020
AUTHORIZATION(S): *Sharam K. Taha*

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents grant Kent State University permission to offer a study away program in New York City (NYC), in which students take courses related to fashion design and merchandising at the institution's NYC Studio location?

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

Kent State University (Kent), a public institution located in Kent, Ohio, 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. Kent 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. Kent has been offering a semester away program at its NYC Studio for several years. Both current Kent students and guest students with relevant majors from other colleges and universities are eligible for this program.

Kent's NYC Studio hosts a study away program in fall, spring, and summer terms. Students enroll in 12 to 15 credits of coursework applicable to Kent's Fashion Design and

Fashion Merchandising majors. All NYC Studio participants are required to sign up for a course titled “NY Study Tour,” which includes visits to relevant sites in New York City, presents guest speakers from the fashion industry, and provides students with a general orientation to the City. In addition, NYC Studio offers some of the courses required for Kent’s Fashion Design and Fashion Merchandising majors, along with a few location-specific elective courses. Students are also encouraged to do an internship during their study away in New York City.

No Kent degree is awarded in the State of New York. Credits from this program are applied to the Kent undergraduate degree awarded in Ohio. Guest students work with their home institution to determine how courses fulfill their program of study requirements. Between 120 and 140 students are expected to study at Kent’s NYC Studio each year over the next five years of operation in New York State.

Kent has indicated that this program addresses the needs of its undergraduate fashion students. These students benefit by gaining direct and informed access to New York City as a “fashion capital” of the United States. By taking coursework customized to fit their Kent degree programs, students are able to take advantage of this program without hindering progress toward graduation.

Kent is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. 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 impact of Kent’s educational activities at the NYC Studio 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 Kent State University permission to offer a study away program in New York City, in which students take courses related to fashion design and merchandising at the institution’s NYC Studio location. This permission will be effective May 5, 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 Kent State University seeks to renew its permission to operate after its current term, it must notify the Department no later than May 30, 2024.