



TO: Higher Education Committee
FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
SUBJECT: Renewal of Institutional Accreditation: The New York Academy of Art

DATE: June 10, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S):

John B. ...
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents grant renewal of accreditation to The New York Academy of Art?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Higher Education Committee at its June 2013 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken. It will then come before the full Board at its June 2013 meeting for final action.

Procedural History

On March 25, 2013, the Regents Advisory Council on Institutional Accreditation (RAC) met to consider the accreditation renewal application of the Academy. The RAC's recommendation is hereby transmitted to the Board of Regents for consideration and final action.

Background Information

The New York Academy of Art is a Regents-chartered independent institution offering a single two-year (60-credit) program of full-time study in figurative art leading to the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree. The Academy was granted a provisional charter by the Board of Regents in 1989 and an absolute charter in 1994. The institution

has been accredited by the Regents since attainment of degree powers in 1989. It was reviewed for renewal of accreditation in 2002, and again in 2005.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents renew the institutional accreditation of The New York Academy of Art without conditions for a period of seven years, with provision of a five-year financial projection to be included on one or more of The Academy's annual reports, and submission of a mid-term report addressing the recommendation and suggestion in the draft report, and addressing the need for a comprehensive assessment plan and evidence of its implementation.

Timetable for Implementation

NA

Attachment

Information in Support of Recommendation Renewal of Institutional Accreditation: The New York Academy of Art

Peer Review Visit:

On November 13 and 14, 2012, a peer review team visited The New York Academy of Art following submission of its self-study. The purpose of the self-study and visit was to assess the Academy's compliance with the standards of the New York State Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education for renewal of its institutional accreditation by the Regents and the Commissioner, acting as a nationally recognized accrediting agency.

During the visit, the team, which included the Executive Vice President of LIM College, the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Excelsior College, and the Chair of the Fine Arts Department at the School of Visual Arts, met with students, faculty, administrators and trustees; observed classes and student and faculty work; and examined student, faculty, and administrative records. The team also inspected classrooms, administrative offices, and library facilities, and reviewed syllabi as well as a random sampling of student work.

Overall, the team found the Academy to be in compliance with the standards for institutional accreditation and recommended renewal of accreditation without conditions for a period of ten years, with provision of a five-year financial projection to be included in one or more of the Academy's annual reports, and submission of a mid-term report addressing the recommendation and suggestions in the draft report.

Department's Preliminary Recommendation:

The Department transmitted the draft compliance report to the Academy for review and comment. The Academy accepted the draft report's recommendation and responded with plans to address the recommendation and suggestions laid out in the draft report.

Based on the findings cited in the team report as well as the Academy's response to the draft report, the Department found the institution to be in full compliance with the standards for institutional accreditation and that recommendations and follow-up reports relate either to minor compliance matters or to the strengthening of practices that meet the standards of compliance. In light of the peer team's findings and the Department's concern about the sustainability of the Academy's financial model, the Department recommended renewal of accreditation without conditions for a period of seven years, with provision of a five-year financial projection to be included in one or more of the Academy's annual reports, and submission of a mid-term report addressing the recommendation and suggestions in the draft report.

Regents Advisory Council Review and Recommendation:

As required by Subpart 4-1 of the Regents Rules, the Department transmitted the final compliance review report for consideration by the Regents Advisory Council on

Institutional Accreditation. (The RAC is established in §3.12(d) of the Rules of the Board of Regents “to review applications for accreditation and renewal of accreditation pursuant to Part 4 of this Title, and such other matters as the department may ask it to review, and make recommendations to the Regents and the commissioner based on its review.”)

On March 25, 2013, the Advisory Council met to consider The New York Academy of Art’s application. In a public meeting, it met with the Academy’s President and Dean, a member of the review team, and Department staff. RAC members discussed their observations and asked questions of the Academy’s representatives.

Following discussion, the Regents Advisory Council voted to recommend renewal of accreditation for the New York Academy of Art, without conditions, for a period of seven years, with provision of a five-year financial projection to be included in one or more of the Academy’s annual reports, and submission of a mid-term report addressing the recommendation and suggestions in the draft report, and addressing the need for a comprehensive assessment plan and evidence of its implementation.

Commissioner’s Review:

Neither The New York Academy of Art nor the Deputy Commissioner for Higher Education appealed the Advisory Council’s recommendation. Therefore, pursuant to Subpart 4-1, the Commissioner adopted the Council’s recommendation as his recommendation to the Board of Regents.

The attachment to this item sets forth the range of accreditation actions authorized under Subpart 4-1 of the *Rules of the Board of Regents*.

Rules of the Board of Regents

Subpart 4-1, Voluntary Institutional Accreditation for Title IV Purposes

§4-1.2 Definitions.

As used in the Subpart:

(a) *Accreditation* means the status of public recognition that the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents grant to an educational institution that meets the standards and requirements prescribed in this Subpart.

(b) *Accreditation action* means accreditation, accreditation with conditions, probationary accreditation, approval of substantive changes in the scope of accreditation, and denial, revocation, or termination of accreditation.

(c) *Accreditation with conditions* means accreditation that requires the institution to take steps to remedy issues raised in a review for accreditation, and provide reports and/or submit to site visits concerning such issues, provided that such issues do not materially affect the institution's substantial compliance with the standards and requirements for accreditation.

(d) *Adverse action* or *adverse accreditation action* means suspension, withdrawal, denial, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation.

(s) *Probationary accreditation* means accreditation for a period of time, not to exceed two years, during which the institution shall come into compliance with standards for accreditation through corrective action.