



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,  
NY 12234

**TO:** Cultural Education Committee  
**FROM:** Jeffrey Cannell  
**SUBJECT:** Museum Advisory Council  
**DATE:** January 6, 2012  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Discussion**

Regents Rules 3.12(a)(4) provide for an advisory council to the Board on Museums. Does the Board of Regents wish to activate such an advisory council, establish the number of members and provide it with direction to guide its work?

#### **Background:**

The Regents Advisory Council on Museums is appointed pursuant to 8 NYCRR 3.12(a)(4). Members serve by appointment by the Commissioner with approval by the Board of Regents. Members serve for a maximum of five years. The council offers advice and consultation on issues of policy and service delivery pursuant to the Board's statutory mandate to operate the State Museum and oversee museums across New York State.

#### **Recommendation:**

The Regents Advisory Council on Museums is established with a total of eleven members. Members serve by appointment by the Commissioner with approval by the Board of Regents. Members serve for a maximum of five years with staggered terms. The council offers advice and consultation on issues of policy and service delivery pursuant to the Board's statutory mandate to operate the State Museum and oversee museums across New York State. The Advisory Council is supported by staff from the Office of Cultural Education and the Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Education acts as the convener and chair of the council, but without vote.

## **Charge of the Regents Advisory Council on Museums:**

- **Monitor and Advise.** The Regents Advisory Council on Museums will monitor and advise on education programs, funding opportunities and operations of the State Museum as well as policies, long-range plans, legislative proposals and regulations affecting museums and historical societies. The Advisory Council will also monitor and advise on Federal policies regarding museums and historical societies.
- **Strengthen.** The Regents Advisory Council will work to strengthen the programs and services of the Museum, and other programs and services of the State Education Department that affect museums and historical societies.
- **Communicate.** The Regents Advisory Council will ensure that effective communication takes place with the Regents and the Commissioner of Education regarding museums and historical societies. The Regents Advisory Council will also ensure that effective communication takes place between the Regents and the museum community. The Regents Advisory Council will seek to build an effective consensus on all policies and programs affecting all types of museums.
- **Advocate.** The Regents Advisory Council will act as an advocate for museums, museum staff, and museum trustees. The Council will coordinate advocacy for Regents Initiatives with SED/OCE programs.

Appointments to the Advisory Council will be made at a subsequent meeting of the Board.