

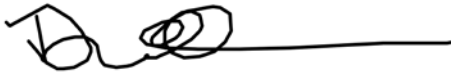
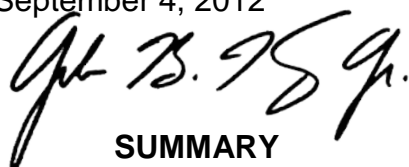


TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: Medaille College, Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree in Veterinary Technology

DATE: September 4, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of Medaille College authorizing the College to offer the Associate in Applied Science degree in Veterinary Technology at its branch campus in Rochester?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board for consideration at its September 2012 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

A master plan amendment is required because this would be the College's first associate degree program in the discipline of agriculture at its branch campus in Rochester.

Background Information

Medaille College seeks to amend its master plan to authorize its branch campus in Rochester, New York to offer instruction leading to the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Veterinary Technology. The College currently offers an AVMA-

accredited A.S. Veterinary Technology program at its Buffalo campus, and seeks to offer a similar program at its branch campus in Rochester. The College currently offers associate, baccalaureate, and graduate programs in business, and a masters-level program in counseling at its Rochester campus.

Program Purpose: The proposed program is designed to prepare the non-traditional learner to become licensed veterinary technicians. It will provide additional avenues to address the shortage and need for licensed veterinary technicians in New York. Additional program goals include: providing a relevant and innovative education preparing individuals for professional careers and lifelong learning; developing interpersonal skills for effective participation in teams; enhancing analytical, critical thinking, and decision-making skills; developing and cultivating a sense of purpose, responsibility, and ethical behavior; and enhancing communication and technological skills.

Curriculum: The proposed program will provide students with classroom instruction, supervised clinical experiences, and the educational credentials required to sit for the Veterinary Technician National Exam. The program includes 24 credit-hours of liberal arts and sciences courses and a 46 credit-hour core curriculum in veterinary technology studies. The delivery mode is accelerated, cohort-based, and courses run exclusively during the evening and weekend. The core curriculum includes: care and management of exotic and laboratory animals; veterinary clinical laboratory techniques; wellness and preventative medicine; integument and wound healing and the musculoskeletal system; gastrointestinal system; cardiology, respiration, and hematology; reproduction, urogenital and endocrinology; neurology, special senses and immunology; a culminating capstone experience, and the successful completion of 240 supervised hours of clinical experience in a veterinary hospital or other appropriate setting. The program satisfies NYS education requirements for professional licensure.

Admissions and Student Population: Candidates must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. An essay explaining how the program will contribute to their professional and personal development and a professional reference will also be used to determine admission to the program. Applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate the ability to read, write and understand English by submitting satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The College projects enrollment of 16 new students per cohort for the proposed program, and there will be two new cohorts admitted each year. It is anticipated that the demographic characteristics of the students enrolled in the proposed program will be similar to that of Medaille College's current Adult Learning Program undergraduate students in Rochester; 71% minority, 73% female, and an average age of 37.

Faculty: Medaille has committed resources to hiring a full-time faculty program director (PD) upon approval of the program and a second full-time faculty member during the third year of the program. Successful candidates will be expected to have the following minimum qualifications: at least 5 years in practice or in a faculty appointment as a Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician with a minimum B.S. degree or AVMA-recognized Board Certification. Both must be licensed to practice in NYS. Full-time positions will be complemented by part-time faculty, with an emphasis on hiring experienced practitioners.

Facilities, Equipment and Resources: Funds to acquire learning resources to service the needs of the program's students have been earmarked in the College's three-year budget projections. Clinical experiences will include completion at New York State Veterinary Medical Society accredited hospitals and clinics, ensuring that students are trained using modern equipment and facilities.

All students will have complete access to, and use of, the services offered at the Medaille College Libraries, Writing Lab, Academic Support Center, Registrar, Financial Aid, Student Affairs, Academic Advisement, Career Planning, Public Safety and the Office of Disabilities which all have representatives at the Rochester Branch Campus. Content-specific tutors are available through the Academic Support Center. The Program Director will provide assessment and placement for the clinical experiences. At their request, laboratories, other facilities, and learning aids located at the Buffalo Campus will be available to the students at the Rochester Campus.

Rationale, Need, and Canvass Results: Medaille College predominately serves the Western New York and Finger Lakes postsecondary education regions. According to the NYS Department of Labor's *Occupational Employment Statistics Survey* employment prospects to 2018: employment prospects for careers in veterinary technology and technicians are "very favorable" with overall growth estimated at 15.7% for the Western New York region and 10.07% for the Finger Lakes region. The College asserts that Rochester area veterinary practices support the development of this program.

A canvass was done of all degree-granting colleges and universities in the Finger Lakes Region and all Veterinary Technology programs statewide. One negative response was received in February 2012 from SUNY College at Delhi. Delhi's concern was that the proposed Medaille College program would impact the College's student recruitment. In July 2012, SUNY Delhi withdrew its concern noting that the "non-traditional, place-bound students" projected to enroll in the Medaille program would likely not be candidates to enroll in the day program at SUNY Delhi.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the amendment to the master plan of Medaille College authorizing its Rochester Campus to offer the Associate in Applied Science degree in Veterinary Technology. This amendment would be effective until September 11, 2013, unless the program is registered by the Department prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.