



MEMORANDUM

November 15, 2017

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment for the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University to offer the Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Policy in the disciplinary area of Health Professions.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that the State University of New York Master Plan be, and hereby is, amended to authorize the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University to offer the Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Policy in the disciplinary area of Health Professions; and, be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, authorized to transmit this amendment to the Board of Regents and the Governor for incorporation into the State University of New York Master Plan.

Background

Approval of this resolution will authorize the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University (the College) to offer the Bachelor of Science Degree in Healthcare Policy (Health Care Policy program). New York State Education Law § 237 and the regulations of the Commissioner of Education (Title 8 NYCRR §52.1 and Part 54) require that a master plan amendment be submitted and approved in order for an institution of higher education to offer a new program in a disciplinary area where it does not currently have a registered program. The proposed Health Care Policy program represents the College's first baccalaureate degree program in the disciplinary area of the Health Professions.

For more than 60 years, the College of Human Ecology has offered the Sloan Master of Health Administration (MHA), a pioneering program originally funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation which became the dominant model for training hospital administrators. The proposed Bachelor of Science will join the MHA and an undergraduate minor in preparing students for leadership positions in health care administration. The proposed program leverages the College's existing strengths in undergraduate programs in Policy Analysis and Management, Human Biology, Health and Society, Global and Public Health Sciences and Human Development.

The Health Care Policy program is an innovative major designed for students planning for careers in health policy who want a strong foundation in the natural sciences or for students planning for careers in clinical health care who are interested in the broader health care system and public policy content. College of Human Ecology faculty are well qualified to offer the curriculum, both from their academic credentials and their research interests. In the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, faculty either focus on health economics and policy or have a secondary emphasis in health policy, making them well-suited to mentor and teach students in the program.

The curriculum design is unique in that it combines social science-based training in health policy analysis with a strong foundation in the natural sciences. Health Care Policy program majors will employ theories and methods from economics and demography to analyze health care and policy. Students will gain an understanding of the development of government policies addressing health care and the interactions between the private and public health care systems. The curriculum combines training in research design, statistics, economic analysis, demographic analysis and population health, as well as leadership and team-based collaboration skills. The proposed program provides opportunities for on and off-campus undergraduate internships and field experiences that enhance the learning environment.

Proposed enrollment is 10 students in its first year, growing to a steady roster of 50 students by year five. Interest in the program has been measured in part by the numbers of graduates and existing students who have created such a program themselves through double majors and multiple minors. Successful program graduates will be eligible to apply for admission to the College's five-year joint BS/MHA.

The Health Care Policy program fits well with the College's mission of "improving lives by exploring and shaping human connections to the natural, social and built environment" and fills a unique niche in the marketplace.

The proposed program has been carefully reviewed and was found to be sound from both an academic and financial perspective.