MEMORANDUM

May 8, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Degree Authorization for the State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi to confer the Bachelor of Architecture degree, subject to approval by the New York State Board of Regents.

Resolution

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

Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to seek the authorization of the New York State Board of Regents for the State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi to confer the Bachelor of Architecture degree.

Background

Approval of this resolution will authorize the State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi (SUNY Delhi) to confer the Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) degree. Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents SUNY Delhi’s first use of the B.Arch.

The five-year B.Arch. will be a professional degree program accredited by the National Architecture Accrediting Board that prepares students for meaningful participation in the field of architecture and fulfills the educational components required for licensure. SUNY Delhi’s current architecture faculty designed the proposed program with input from an advisory council comprised of industry representatives—including principals, directors, and hiring managers, as well as alumni from architecture, engineering, and construction firms throughout New York State.
The proposed program builds on the strengths of SUNY Delhi’s related programs, including an A.A.S. in Architectural Technology, a B.Tech. in Construction Management: Design and Building, and a B.Tech. in Architectural Design and Building. In fact, implementation of the proposed B.Arch. involves adding only one additional year of instruction to the existing four-year B.Tech. in Architectural Design and Building.

The proposed program includes a solid foundation of liberal arts and sciences, overlaid with coursework in building systems, construction technology, structural engineering, architectural history, and theory. It will provide students with opportunities to address practical architectural design problems in intensive, multi-semester, design studio sequences and provide an affordable, timely, path to licensure. Students will have the opportunity to take a three-credit summer internship after their third or fourth years, or opt to study in Italy during the January term.

Given the existing expertise of existing faculty and that the proposed B.Arch. requires only two additional semesters to an existing program, start-up expenses are minimal. The campus anticipates one new full-time faculty hire at the start and possibly a second in the fourth year, depending on enrollment. The instructional space and equipment necessary for this new program are largely in place. SUNY Delhi is proceeding with plans to update and expand space and equipment as part of an ongoing capital construction plan for current programs that will also accommodate the proposed program. The campus has budgeted for required library resources and the outfitting of a new fifth-year design studio with computers, software, printers, plotters, and other technology needed to train students on industry-standard programs and equipment, similar to the design studios already in place for the four-year program.

SUNY Delhi has identified strong student interest in the proposed program, consistent with state-wide market trends. The 2016-2026 New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) Long-Term Projection Report shows a favorable employment outlook for graduates holding the B.Arch. Specifically, projections indicate a statewide increased need of 9.3%, with an entry-level salary of $60,540. Further, as noted in the 2014-2024 NYSDOL Long-Term Projection Regional Report, there is an 18.7% increased need in New York City and an increased need of 5.3% in the Southern Tier for individuals with the B.Arch. SUNY Delhi’s proposed degree program will help to fill the projected demand for qualified architecture professionals across the state.

Notably, SUNY Delhi reports that its current architecture program boasts one of the most culturally and socio-economically diverse student populations in the college. As of fall 2018, enrolled students self-identified as 17% Black or African American, 36% Hispanic/Latino, and 9% Other (Asian, Two or More Races, and Unknown). Further, the program enrolled 22% women. (Source: SUNY Data Warehouse). Architecture is a field with a recognized need for greater diversity in both gender and race/ethnicity.
At present, Alfred State College is the only SUNY institution that offers a B.Arch., and it will not compete directly with the one being proposed. The proposed program provides an affordable option for students within SUNY Delhi’s traditional catchment area of eastern New York State.

Two external reviewers reviewed the proposal, including the curriculum, faculty and facilities, and visited the campus, as part of the development of the program. Both confirmed that the campus has well qualified and highly dedicated faculty as well as the requisite facilities to launch this program. One reviewer commended the college for designing a curriculum that emphasizes a “hands-on, practical [approach] that will always fare well in the marketplace.”

The proposal has been carefully reviewed and found to be sound from an academic and financial perspective.