



MEMORANDUM

June 20, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

**SUBJECT: Official Name Change for the State University of New York
Health Science Center at Brooklyn**

Action Requested

The proposed resolution renames the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn as the “State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University.”

Resolution

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

Whereas founded in 1895, the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn (the “Campus”) was once named the Long Island College of Medicine, which merged with the State University of New York in 1950 to become the State University of New York College of Medicine at New York City; and

Whereas as early as 1954, the Campus began to use “Downstate Medical Center” as its name in official documents, and in 1960 its name was formally changed to “Downstate Medical Center;” and

Whereas, although the Board of Trustees designated the Campus’s official name as “State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn” in 1986, the Campus continues to be known at the local, state, national and international levels as “Downstate Medical Center;” and

Whereas the Campus feels that its current official name, and even its more recognized short-form name, do not accurately reflect the mission of the school, which should include “University” due to its robust offerings of Bachelors, Masters, MD, PhD, DPH, and DPT degrees; and

Whereas on May 10, 2019, State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn President Wayne J. Riley submitted a letter to the Chancellor requesting to change the name of the Campus to “State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University”; and

Whereas the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn College Council voted in favor of the name change, as communicated via letter dated May 31, 2019; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn will, effective immediately, be officially known as the “State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University” for all legal purposes in accordance with the powers vested in the Board of Trustees by NYS Education Law §355(m); and, be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor or designee shall notify the NYS Board of Regents of the renaming of the Campus as the “State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University.”

Background

Section 355(m) of the Education law authorizes the Board of Trustees to name and rename any State-operated institution of the State University, after consultation with the institution's Council.

The College Council unanimously approved the renaming and supports the efforts of Dr. Riley to have the institution’s name better reflect its service to the broader Downstate community and its significant doctoral level offerings, as does the Campus Faculty Senate.