



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy 

SUBJECT: Conferral of Degrees: New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture

DATE: April 1, 2021

AUTHORIZATION(S):  

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents confer degrees upon students successfully completing programs at New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Full Board at its April 2021 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Background Information

Section 208 of the Education Law gives the Regents the authority to make awards in certain circumstances. By statute and regulation, institutions of higher education that have provisional charters do not have authority to award degrees. Until such time as a charter is made absolute, the Board of Regents awards degrees on behalf of provisionally chartered institutions. In the case of closed institutions of higher education, in order to hold students harmless, the Board of Regents awards degrees to eligible students who complete the requirements for their registered degree programs at other institutions, for specified periods of time.

New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture

The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture was granted a provisional charter by the Board of Regents on May 20, 2008, authorizing the School to confer the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree. Until such time as its charter is made

absolute, Section 224 of the Education Law requires the Board of Regents to award degrees on the School's behalf.

The conferral process consists of the following steps:

For provisionally chartered institutions:

- The institution sends the Department a request for conferral of degrees to students who have completed their registered programs.
- The Department reviews the relevant documentation provided by the institution to assure its accuracy. (This step may involve multiple communications with an institution depending upon the accuracy and completeness of the documentation provided.)
- The Department prepares a degree conferral item for Regents action that lists all candidates and the degrees earned.
- After the Regents have voted to confer the degrees, Department staff notify the institution of the Regents action. The institution prepares diplomas with the candidates' names and degrees completed, along with the signatures of appropriate officers at the institution.
- Institution-signed diplomas are sent to the Department for the imprinting of the signatures of the Chancellor of the Board of Regents and the President of the University of the State of New York (USNY) (Commissioner of Education) and the affixing of the official Board of Regents seal to each diploma.
- Once the diplomas have the signatures of the Chancellor and the President of USNY and the official Regents seal, the diplomas are mailed back to the institution, to be provided to the students.

For closed institutions:

- The student submits to the Department official transcripts from the closed institution and any other institution at which the student earned credit toward the degree.
- The Department reviews the transcripts and compares the completed courses to the requirements of the registered program at the closed institution.
- Upon a determination that the student has completed the program requirements, the Department prepares a degree conferral item for Regents action that lists all candidates and the degrees earned.
- After the Regents have voted to confer the degrees, the Department prepares the diplomas with the candidates' names and degree awards, the diplomas are signed by the Chancellor and the President of USNY (Commissioner of Education) and the official Regents seal is affixed.

- The completed diplomas are sent to the students by the Department.

Related Regents Items

July 2018: [Conferral of Degrees: Dowling College and The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/718brca14.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/718brca14.pdf>)

October 2018: [Conferral of Degrees: Globe Institute of Technology, and The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1018brca3.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1018brca3.pdf>)

September 2019: [Conferral of Degrees: Dowling College, New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture and Glasgow Caledonian New York College](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/919brca2.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/919brca2.pdf>)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents confer upon the following individuals, who have completed the requirements for registered degree programs at New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture, the respective degree as listed below.

New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture

The following students have completed the requirements for the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) award:

Jamie Allen
Rachael Ann Bohlander
Silas Joseph Borsos
Beatrice Marie Chessman
Halle Dillon
Francine Fanali
Helen Trimble Kohnke
Alexis Catherine Nunnelly
Anne-Sophie Hubschwerlin Plume
Michael Tee Reyes
Paula Bemerguy Sefer
Christopher Alexander Thixton
Lorena Vélez
Joseph Ward, III