



To: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
From: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*
Subject: Renewal of Permission to Operate for Biola University's
Talbot School of Theology to offer Courses in New York State

Date: June 11, 2012

Authorizations:

John L. D'Agati
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents renew permission for Biola University's Talbot School of Theology to offer courses from its Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program in New York at the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

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

Procedural History

On May 22, 2007, the Board of Regents granted permission for Talbot School of Theology to offer two thirds of its Master of Divinity (M. Div.) degree program in Manhattan with the remainder of the program being completed on Talbot's main campus in California. Pursuant to Section 224 of the Education Law, Regents action is needed to renew the Seminary's permission to operate in New York State.

Background Information

Established in 1908, Biola University is an independent, not-for-profit institution offering 145 programs from the baccalaureate level through the doctorate to about 5,400 students. It is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities. Biola's mission is "biblically-centered education, scholarship and service—equipping men and women in mind and character to impact the world for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Established in 1952, Talbot School of Theology is one of Biola's six schools. It offers programs leading to the Master of Divinity (M. Div.), Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Theology (M.Th.), Doctor of Ministry, (D.Min.), Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. Its programs are accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS). Talbot describes its theological position as "Christian, protestant, and theologically conservative." It is evangelical; its mission statement says, "Talbot is committed to the development of disciples of Jesus Christ whose thought processes, character and lifestyles reflect those of our Lord, and who are dedicated to disciple-making throughout the world." Talbot's founding dean, Charles Feinberg, was a member of Chosen People Ministries' governing board.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents renew the permission of Biola University's Talbot School of Theology to offer courses from its Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program in New York City for a period ending on May 31, 2017, retroactive to June 1, 2012.