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December 15, 2023

Dr. Kathy Johnson, President
University of New Orleans
2000 Lakeshore Drive
New Orleans, LA 70148

Dear Dr. Johnson:

On December 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System approved the following requests from University of New Orleans:

- D.3. Approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience.
- D.4. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Delgado Community College.

Enclosed for your records are the Executive Summaries with the resolutions that were approved by the Board along with the approved personnel actions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeannine O'Rourke".

Jeannine O'Rourke, PhD
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

December 7, 2023

Item D.3. **University of New Orleans'** request for approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of New Orleans (UNO) requests approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience. The proposed 120 credit hour interdisciplinary program is intended to prepare students for graduate/professional school or employment in the broad field of neuroscience. Neuroscience is the scientific study of the nervous system (the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nervous system), its functions and disorders. Neuroscience focuses on the brain and how it generates behavior and cognitive function. Neuroscience meshes with human and veterinary medicine, medical research, pharma and tech development including computer science, marketing, and a variety of other related domains. Examples of local internships include biomedical imaging at Med Vet (small animal MRI); drug and materials discovery including companies located at The Beach at UNO; animal behavior studies (Audubon Zoo and Aquarium, Tulane Primate Center, LSU veterinary medicine); premedical training experiences such as Medical Scribe, shadowing neurology, psychiatry, psychology professionals at LCMC, LSU and Ochsner; working with special needs pediatric populations (Butterfly Effects Children with ASO, Ochsner Michael R. Boh Center for Child Development), and working with elderly people with dementia and memory issues (i.e., LCMC Woldenberg Village for Advanced Dementia Care).

Health care is a constant community need. Although the proposed undergraduate program is not a medical program, it does provide the undergraduate background for students moving on to medical school and for students with interest in the many health care professions. In the area of neurology and related specialties, local employers include LSU Healthcare, Ochsner Health, and Neurocare of the South. In September 2022, the Ochsner Health System announced a new facility in New Orleans, the 132,000 square-foot Robert J. and Debra H. Patrick Neuroscience Center, which is under construction and will be a single and comprehensive destination of neurological care for patients that will include an Innovation Center, healing garden, integrative and aquatic therapies, and a neurological rehabilitation center. Graduates of the proposed program will be well poised to pursue positions with these entities located in the region served by UNO.

Currently there are four (4) existing BS in Neuroscience programs offered in Louisiana, all being private institutions of higher education (Tulane, Loyola, Xavier and Centenary). The program proposed by UNO will have a similar curriculum in the sense of requiring 40 hours in the major and involving courses from various departments in a truly interdisciplinary program, including unique courses in Computer Science, Chemistry, Psychology and Biology. The BS in Neuroscience at UNO will be unique in that it will be the only such program offered by a public university, which will greatly increase access to this important biomedical field for residents of Louisiana and neighboring states.

The University anticipates an enrollment of 10 students in YR1 with that number increasing to 36 by YR4. Students enrolled in UNO's biology and psychology programs will have interest in the proposed program. It is anticipated that students from across the state and in adjacent states will be attracted to the proposed program, thus increasing UNO's enrollment. The proposed program will be revenue neutral (or positive) because its interdisciplinary nature allows for pooling existing resources from across six departments without new expenses. A positive budget is predicted because of the expected growth in students recruited to the college and to UNO.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of New Orleans' request for approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience.*

Approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System on 23/7/23.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

December 7, 2023

Item D.4. **University of New Orleans'** request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Delgado Community College.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of New Orleans requests approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Delgado Community College (DCC). The purpose of the proposed MOU is to establish a transferable pathway for DCC students enrolled in the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Architectural Design/Construction Technology to pursue UNO's Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies and Planning. The partnership between the two institutions, as outlined in the proposed MOU, will facilitate student success through a seamless and concurrent blend of curricula.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of New Orleans' request to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Delgado Community College.*