



ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

February 16, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Albertus Magnus College, I am writing in support of SB 24. Since the current review process has been in place, all proposed programs that Albertus has submitted have been approved without substantive changes. At the same time, the College has had to devote resources and time to the approval process that could have been better directed. Preparing an application can take several months, and the application can run to hundreds of pages and incur considerable cost because the Office of Higher Education requires that syllabi for all courses in all delivery methods be submitted with the application. The requirement itself seems ill advised for a number of reasons. Firstly, it results in the development of syllabi for courses that may not be taught for three or four years from when the program is first introduced. In that time, the syllabi may well be outdated. Secondly, faculty routinely revise syllabi based on their assessment of course effectiveness. Thirdly, most colleges and universities do not require all professors teaching a given course to use the same syllabus. While there are parameters set for given courses, professors are at liberty to exercise academic freedom in their design and delivery of courses.

Colleges and universities undergo regular review as part of the accreditation process. Assessment plans must be in place for individual programs, and institutions must show that they are engaged in processes of continuous improvement, have the appropriate financial resources in place to support their programs, and are meeting reasonable benchmarks for student retention and success. The program application process adds an unnecessary bureaucratic layer that does not contribute to the quality of the college's academic programs but which incurs unnecessary costs and slows the process of program development and implementation.

Public colleges and universities are not required to undergo the approval process. It should not be required of private colleges and universities given that there are ongoing policies and procedures in place to ensure quality through the accreditation process.

Sincerely,

Sean P. O'Connell

Vice President for Academic Affairs