

Senate Bill 238 and R401

The USHE policy R401 is the policy we have followed for state approval of academic degrees and certificates. In the 2017 legislative session, a new bill, Senate Bill 238, was passed changing how degrees and certificates will be approved.

Previous Procedure for Approving Degrees and Certificates

- 1-New program proposed to Curriculum Committee;
- 2-If passed by curriculum committee, proposal is forwarded to the Board of Trustees;
- 3-If passed by the Board, it is forwarded to the Office of the Commissioner;
- 4-The commissioner's office gives it an initial reading, and then prepares it for review by the CAOs of the various USHE institutions;
- 5-CAO's comment, and it is forwarded to the Regents Program Review Committee;
- 6-If approved by the Program Review Committee, it goes to the Board of Regents for Final Approval.

New Proposed Procedure for Approving Degrees and Certificates

- 1-New program is proposed to the Curriculum Committee;
- 2-If passed by the Curriculum Committee it goes to the Office of the Commissioner;
- 3-The Commissioner's staff prepares the proposal for review by the CAOs;
- 4-CAO's comment, and sends it back to the Curriculum Committee. The Curriculum Committee can act on recommendations or choose to overlook recommendations;
- 5-The Board of Trustees votes on the proposal.

In order to accommodate a faster turnaround on reviews from CAOs, CAOs will meet monthly instead of bi-monthly. If we propose a four-year degree, we will need to go through USHE as in the previous procedure.