

CUNY Plans To Launch Journalism Graduate School

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The City University of New York is launching a journalism graduate school in September 2005 that will offer a one-year master's degree for less than \$10,000.

CUNY's chancellor, Matthew Goldstein, said a formal search for the school's first dean has begun and the university has already received dozens of applicants. All the candidates are external, he said, and some are deans of other journalism schools.

CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism will be located in Manhattan and will start out with about 50 students, growing to 200 students over the next few years, Mr. Goldstein said.

Although it won't have the name recognition or prestige of the master's programs offered by New York University and Columbia University (which awards the Pulitzer Prize), CUNY's journalism school has an advantage in that it will be public.

CUNY journalism students could pay less than a fourth of the tuition that Columbia and NYU students pay, although the tuition has not been set, Mr. Goldstein said.

A questions-and-answers page on the school's official Web site says tuition will be \$2,720 a semester for full-time students; Mr. Goldstein said the cost could be higher.

The budget for the journalism school could run about \$2 million a year.

CUNY's journalism school will be for students who "don't necessarily have Columbia-style money," said the director of the journalism program at Queens College, Wayne Svoboda, a member of the dean search committee.

Mr. Goldstein said CUNY's journalism school would also cater more directly to immigrants, particularly promising students who cannot afford to pay private school tuition.

"This would fill a market niche," he said.

"We are a huge city of immigrants," Mr. Goldstein said. "Students we will get will reflect that rich diversity in the city."

Mr. Goldstein said CUNY officials in developing the journalism school have kept in mind changes under way at Columbia's journalism school under the leadership of its new dean, Nicholas Lemann, who also writes for the *New Yorker*.

As part of its internal reform, starting in 2005, Columbia will offer a second-year, master-of-arts program that will focus on a specific subject of reporting.

Mr. Goldstein said CUNY's journalism school would teach the "craft of the journalist," a remark aimed at Columbia's president, Lee Bollinger, who declared in 2002 that teaching "the craft of journalism is a worthy goal but clearly insufficient."

Mr. Bollinger's comments helped stir a public debate about the purpose of a journalism school.

Mr. Goldstein said CUNY's school wouldn't be "content-driven" but would take "a much more generalist view."

For faculty members, CUNY's journalism school will draw mostly from professors at other CUNY colleges, with five of its faculty members to be hired. The search committee for the dean is composed of faculty members from the English and social science departments.

Mr. Goldstein has for some time expressed interest in starting a journalism school. But it is in the last few months that CUNY officials and faculty members have begun developing curriculum and setting the agenda for the school in earnest.

A draft curriculum says students will have a choice of print or broadcast journalism as program tracks. Students will be able to major in newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and "new media."

Applicants will be required to pass a composition and grammar exam, which international students will be able to take from abroad.

The draft curriculum also calls for a three-week "boot camp" in August.

Students will be taught the "basics of reporting and writing for both print and broadcast journalism" and "how to determine 'what is news.'" They will also be taught a history of American journalism.

Much of the draft curriculum also focuses on the "workings of city government." Those enrolled in the print track program will study "New York City history, government, politics, policy, demography, business, education, social services, security, transportation, culture."

CUNY journalism students will also have access to CUNY TV/Channel 75, the university's cable station.

An associate professor at Columbia's journalism school, Steven Ross, called CUNY's journalism school "a fabulous idea."

He said he welcomed its focus on urban affairs because "New York City is horribly underserved by major media," he said.