

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to establish a new Doctor of Nursing Practice Program which will be administered by the College of Nursing.

Executive Summary: The proposed program will prepare nurse clinicians to assume leadership positions in clinical practice, clinical education, or executive management. Funding sources for the proposed program will include tuition revenue and reallocations by the College of Nursing. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. No concerns were raised when it was presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education.

Background:

- ◇ Practice doctorate in nursing. In 2004, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) member institutions voted to move the level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice from the master's degree to the doctorate by 2015.
- ◇ Description of program. The proposed program is an intensive one-year program that will require 29-32 semester credits and build on the advanced practice curriculum in the master's program. Students may select from the following specialties of advanced practice – adult and geriatric nurse practitioner; family nurse practitioner; neonatal nurse practitioner; nurse anesthetist; pediatric nurse practitioner; and psychiatric nurse practitioner.
- ◇ Program objectives. The proposed program will prepare nurse clinicians at the highest level of practice (1) to utilize research and employ evidence-based practice in the development and implementation of patient care standards and protocols, teaching methods, and executive management strategies; and (2) to develop, implement, and evaluate interventions to improve health status/access patterns and address gaps in care of individuals, aggregates, or populations.
- ◇ Duplication. Four colleges in Iowa offer advanced nurse practice degrees which are limited to the family nurse practitioner – Allen College, Briar Cliff University, Clarke College, and Graceland University. SUI's College of Nursing is the only institution in the state which offers a Ph.D. program. The Ph.D. program prepares scholars to conduct research in nursing, extend the knowledge base relevant to nursing, and collaborate in interdisciplinary research with other scholars whereas the proposed program will be practice-focused.

- ◇ Cost/Resources. The University projects that 4.0 FTE additional faculty positions and one additional staff position will be required to deliver the proposed program. No additional physical space will be needed. The proposed program is expected to become fully operational in Fall 2008. In 2007-08, one DNP-prepared and one Ph.D. faculty member will be re-allocated within the College of Nursing to teach the beginning class. The College of Nursing has requested that initial tuition be established at \$6,500 per semester for in-state tuition and \$13,000 per semester for out-of-state tuition¹. Reallocated funds from the College of Nursing will be used as needed. The projected cost of the proposed program is expected to be \$525,533 in year 1 (2008-09) and \$794,030 by year 7.
- ◇ Availability of courses. The majority of courses will be offered on-line to permit nurse practitioners to enroll in the program without having to leave their practices or travel to Iowa City.
- ◇ Need/Demand. Nursing is moving in the direction of other health professions in the transition to the DNP; Pharmacy (PharmD), Psychology (PsyD), Physical Therapy (DPT), and Audiology (AudD) offer practice doctorates. In 2005, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) decided that only practice doctoral degrees with the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) title will be eligible for CCNE accreditation.
- ◇ Projected Enrollment. The projected enrollment for year 1 is 25 students; the enrollment is projected to increase to 50 students by year 7. The anticipated sources of students include recent graduates of nursing programs as well as nurse practitioners in Iowa and surrounding states. There are 65-80 graduate students enrolled annually in the advanced practice programs.
- ◇ Quality. CCNE, the accrediting agency for baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs in the U.S., will develop an accreditation process to assess the quality of the DNP program.
- ◇ Link to Strategic Plan. The proposed program addresses SUI's goal of public engagement and is consistent with the goals of the College of Nursing Strategic Plan to "prepare the next generation of nursing leaders; be national leaders in the discovery and application of nursing knowledge; and engage in strategic partnerships with the nursing and health care communities in Iowa, the nation, and the world." The proposed program also addresses the Board's Strategic Plan priority (1.0) to "ensure high-quality educational opportunities for students."

Responses to the Board of Regents' program approval questions are on file in the Board Office.

¹ By comparison, the 2007-08 base for the Graduate College will be \$3,139 per semester for in-state tuition and \$9,132 per semester for out-of-state tuition; for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program will be \$4,824 per semester for in-state tuition and \$10,538 per semester for out-of-state tuition; for the Doctor of Pharmacy Program, it will be \$8,206 per semester for in-state tuition and \$15,297 per semester for out-of-state tuition for students entering in Fall 2007.