MEMORANDUM

DATE:       June 25, 2002
TO:         Dr. James W. Holsinger, Jr.
            Chair, Academic Council for the Medical Center
FROM:       Dr. Carolyn A. Williams
            Dean, College of Nursing
SUBJECT:    Application for new course and change in existing course

New Course:

The faculty of the College of Nursing have approved and submit for your approval a
proposal for the following new course for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program:

    NUR 903 Philosophy and Foundations of Evidence Based Practice (3 CH).

Course Description:
This course will provide students with the knowledge and tools to support,
promote and implement evidence based practice in nursing and health care
delivery systems. Emphasis will be on the synthesis, critique, and application of
evidence to support quality clinical and organizational practices.

Pre-requisites:
Enrollment in Doctor of Nursing Practice program or consent of instructor

Effective Date:

    Fall, 2002

Rationale for new course:
This course was not originally included in the Doctor of Nursing Practice curriculum. By
the end of the first semester of the program (Fall, 2001), it became clear to faculty that
this content was essential to the curriculum. A national consultant and expert in evidence
based nursing practice visited the College of Nursing in Dec., 2001 and recommended
inclusion of such a course in the program. The content was taught in a special topics
course in Spring, 2002. It was highly successful and both faculty and students agreed that it was needed in the curriculum. It will take the place of one of the three cognates in the curriculum, thereby leaving the total required credit hours for the program unchanged.

Change in Existing Course:

The faculty also submit the following changes in NUR 904, Epidemiology Applied to the Design and Evaluation of Nursing and Health Services:

1. Faculty wish to change the course number to NUR 905.
2. Faculty recommend increasing the total credit hours for this course from 2 credits to 3 credits.

Effective Date:

Fall, 2002

Rationale for changes:

1. Changing the course number to from NUR 904 to NUR 905 will reflect renumbering of courses in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program following the addition of the Evidence-Based Practice Course described above.
2. Faculty concluded that the objectives for this course are sufficiently complex to necessitate adding one credit hour. This will increase the total credit hours required in the program from a range of 53-54 credits to a range of 54-55 credits. Faculty believe the increase is justified because the program’s emphases on population-focused care and evidence-based practice require a strong grounding in clinical epidemiology.
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TO: Deans, Department Chairs, Members of the University Senate

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Dean, College of Nursing

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