

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Hippisley, Andrew R
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2013 1:37 PM
To: Brothers, Sheila C
Cc: Jones, Davy
Subject: RE: Nursing

Sheila,

Revised agenda item:

This is a recommendation that the University Senate approve the suspension of admission into an existing graduate program: Master of Sciences in Nursing, in the College of Nursing.



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 15, 2012

To: Heidi M. Anderson, PhD
Chair, Health Care Colleges Council

From: Patricia B. Howard, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
Associate Dean, MSN/DNP Studies

Subject: Program Suspension -
Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program:

- Suspension of admissions
- Retention of degree rights for future consideration

College of Nursing
UK Medical Center
315 College of Nursing Bldg.
Lexington, KY 40536-0232
859 323-6533
fax 859 323-1057
www.mc.uky.edu/nursing

Background Information

Historically, the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program prepared graduate nurses for roles in direct and indirect care. However, in October 2004 the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the organization that provides direction for graduate level nursing education, developed a position statement recommending that the nursing profession move to the practice doctorate as the entry level degree for advanced practice nurses (APN). Both direct care APNs (nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists) and indirect care APNs (nursing administration, public health, etc.) were included in the position description for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). AACN continues to advocate for MSN programs that do not prepare advanced practice nurses (e.g., nursing informatics, clinical nurse leaders). While the College of Nursing considered offering a clinical nurse leader MSN program in 2006, efforts to secure University approval was tabled given the array of programmatic changes within the College.

The AACN DNP recommendation was made based on profound changes in increasingly complex health care systems, mandating changes to improve quality of care while reducing costs, improving access, eliminating disparities, and promoting safe practice. "Practice-focused doctoral programs are designed to prepare experts in specialized advanced nursing practice. They focus heavily on practice that is innovative and evidence-based, reflecting the application of credible research findings" (AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice, 2006, p. 3). The high number of credit hours in MSN programs preparing advanced practice nurses was also an influencing factor in this movement. Finally, the change was recommended in order to bring the nursing discipline to a similar level of preparation as other health care disciplines now prepared at the doctoral level. Examples of the practice doctorate level of education can be found in Physical Therapy (DPT), Pharmacology (Pharm.D.), and Audiology (AudD). The College of Nursing offers a Baccalaureate Degree entry option to prepare registered nurses. The DNP is considered a graduate professional program.

In 2001 the CON admitted its first cohort of students to the DNP program, which opened with an MSN entry to the practice doctorate program. It was the first of its type worldwide. Since then, the movement to the DNP has proliferated across the country and is being adopted in some countries internationally. According to AACN data, in 2006 there were 862 students enrolled in DNP programs, and in 2011 there were 8,973 students enrolled in DNP programs throughout the US. These numbers represent a mix of post BSN and post MSN

enrolled students. Because of the success of and demand for the MSN-DNP program, and in keeping with the AACN recommendation for all programs offering APN programs to move to the DNP level by 2015, the faculty agreed to be an early adopter of the post-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) entry option to the DNP program. The first cohort of students was admitted in the fall of 2009.

Faculty Decision.

September 5, 2008, the faculty members of the Master of Science Program Committee voted to admit the last cohort of MSN applicants in fall 2009, with an expected completion date of no later than 2013. Per the College's bylaws, in September of 2008, the required two thirds vote of the CON total faculty was met to implement the BSN-DNP entry option, effective fall 2009. Of the 48 faculty who voted, 26 had graduate status. This represents a majority of the 29 College of Nursing faculty with Graduate School status in 2008. Once faculty made these recommendations, forums were held with students and faculty to (1.) assure them of continued efforts for quality in the MSN program and (2.) offer students enrolled in the MSN program the option to transition to the BSN-DNP program beginning in fall 2009. Approved course substitutions were shared with students. Fifteen students enrolled in the MSN program made the transition to the BSN-DNP curriculum.

During the process of the BSN-DNP curriculum development, faculty focused on the DNP option as the College's one pathway to prepare APNs, not only because of the national movement but also because of limited resources. However, selected MSN courses remained open because we awarded the MSN degree enroute to the College's BSN-PhD option.

More recently, in December 2011 the PhD Program Committee recommended to the graduate faculty a revised BSN-PhD curriculum plan that does not award the MSN degree en route to the PhD. This BSN-PhD proposed curriculum was approved by the graduate faculty in February 2012. Furthermore, at the December 2011 graduate faculty meeting a motion was made to suspend admission to the MSN program but maintain the MSN degree with review by the CON faculty within 5 years (by Spring 2017). Results of the vote on suspension of the MSN program were reported at the January 13, 2012 total faculty meeting; 60% of the College's graduate faculty voted in favor of this motion. The College requests the 5 year window in order to assess whether it wants to redesign the MSN program to prepare nurses for areas other than advanced practice. For these reasons, this request is submitted for suspension of admissions to the MSN program in the College of Nursing.

Suspension of Admissions to the MSN Program

We formally request on behalf of the faculty:

- (1) suspension of admissions to the MSN program and, simultaneously,***
- (2) that the MSN degree be maintained for continuing students in the MSN program and continuing students in the original BSN-PhD program, which currently awards the MSN en route to the PhD, with review by CON faculty within 5 years.***

We appreciate the consideration of the Health Care Colleges Council and await further direction on additional approvals that are necessary. I can be reached at pbhwa00@uky.edu or Pamela Knight at 859-323-3304 if additional information is needed.

cc: Dr. Jane Kirschling
Dr. Jeannine Blackwell
CON members of Health Care Colleges Council
Gia Mudd, Representatives
Darlene Welsh, Representatives
Elizabeth Tovar, Alternate
Ana Maria Quelopana, Alternate

External-to-College Approvals:

Council	Date Approved	Signature	Approval of Revision⁵
Undergraduate Council			
Graduate Council	5/3/12	Brian Jackson	
Health Care Colleges Council	4/17/12	Lynda Brown Wright	
Senate Council Approval		University Senate Approval	