



**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** Douglas E. Lentivech 

**SUBJECT:** The State University College of Agriculture and Technology at Morrisville, Norwich campus – Master Plan Amendment for Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Nursing

**DATE:** February 2, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Morrisville to establish a proposed Nursing program leading to the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree at its Branch Campus in Norwich?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the full Board at its February 2017 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

#### **Procedural History**

On June 22, 2016, the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees amended the State University Master Plan to authorize the Norwich Campus of the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Morrisville to offer the Nursing A.A.S. degree. A master plan amendment is necessary as this is the institution's first associate degree program in the health professions discipline at the Branch Campus.

## **Background Information**

The New York State Education Department approved Morrisville State College to offer the first two semesters of the A.A.S. nursing program at the Norwich branch campus in 1999 in response to community interest and the identified need for nurses in the Southern Tier Region where the campus is located. The final two semesters were completed at the main campus in Morrisville. Chenango County, where the Norwich branch campus is located, has no other A.A.S. program in nursing. Currently, approximately 75% of the Norwich branch campus students reside in Chenango County and the remaining students commute from Madison, Broome, Otsego, Cortland and Delaware counties. The Norwich branch campus is located 35 miles south of the Morrisville campus. Offering the nursing program in its entirety at the Norwich branch campus will decrease the hardship of commuting for this population of students. There has been a consistent demand for the nursing program at the Norwich branch campus. It is anticipated that interest in the program will further expand when obstacles such as increased commute times and the need to transition to the Morrisville campus are eliminated. Long-term and short-term employment projections per the New York State Department of Labor show a favorable increase in new and replacement positions for registered professional nurses. The long-term projection in the Southern Tier is a growth of 7.5% or 660 openings from 2012 to 2022, and offering the Morrisville State College A.A.S. nursing program in its entirety at the Norwich branch campus will assist with meeting this need for nurses.

**Purpose, Goals and Relationship to Existing Programs:** The program is designed to prepare individuals for entry into practice as a professional nurse. Upon completion of the program students receive an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree and are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). It is the mission of the Division of Nursing to deliver a program that will prepare graduate nurses at the associate degree level who can practice in an evolving health care environment influenced by social, political, economic and technical trends through lifelong learning based on nursing theory as well as the arts, sciences, and mathematics.

Offering the entire nursing program at the Norwich branch campus seamlessly aligns with the mission and vision of the College. The College aspires to be recognized as a leader in innovative applied education and works to offer diverse learning experiences so that graduates may pursue rewarding lives and careers, become engaged citizens and contribute to our collective future. Offering the A.A.S. nursing program in its entirety at the Norwich campus will result in improved support for the students, campus and community.

**Curriculum:** The curriculum of the A.A.S. program requires the completion of 64 credits, including 37 credits in the nursing discipline and 27 credits in core courses/liberal arts. The 37 credits in the nursing curriculum are aligned with the standards and criteria of the Accreditation Commission for Nursing Education (ACEN), and incorporate established professional standards, guidelines and competencies, such as IOM and QSEN. The faculty integrated professional standards and current evidence-based practice when the student learning outcomes were developed, and have identified core concepts upon which the curriculum is based. These concepts include patient-centered care, safety, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, informatics and teamwork, collaboration and professionalism. The core concepts incorporate the professional standards, guidelines and competencies required of the registered professional nurse in today's healthcare environment, and are derived from the biological and behavioral sciences and the faculty's beliefs about nursing practice and nursing care. The core concepts incorporate the art and science of nursing, which includes and is supported by content from the social, biological sciences and humanities.

There are four clinical courses in the curriculum and the Associate Dean and Clinical Coordinator will organize the clinical experiences. Contracts for clinical settings within the Southern Tier are either already in place, or are in progress, in preparation for the nursing program to be offered in its entirety at the Norwich campus.

**Admissions and Enrollment:** Admission into the nursing program requires students to have a strong background in biology, chemistry and math, and a minimum GPA of 2.75 is required for transfer students. All students are reviewed holistically for admission to the college, and it is strongly suggested that SAT and ACT scores be submitted. The NLN Pre-Admission test with a minimum composite score of 100 out of a possible 200 is required.

The College anticipates the enrollment during the first year to be approximately 30 students, and will increase to 60 students for the second year. It is anticipated that enrollment will remain at 60 once the program is offered in its entirety. The estimated FTE for year 1 is 23, and the estimated FTE for year 2 and beyond is 45.

**Facilities and Resources:** The Norwich branch of Morrisville State College has the necessary classroom space, conference space, computer labs, online resources, and library facilities for the program. All classrooms are equipped with teaching technologies, and the biology lab is presently being upgraded to allow microbiology to be offered at the Norwich campus for the first time. Additionally, a new state-of-the-art, fully equipped nursing lab is in the process of being developed, as additional space will be required when the A.A.S. nursing program expands. These initiatives provide evidence of the commitment of the College to provide an excellent learning experience for the nursing students.

**Faculty:** The Associate Dean of the School of Science, Technology and Health Studies presently has oversight of the A.A.S nursing program, and this will continue when the program is offered in its entirety at the Norwich branch. In addition to the existing two full-time Master's prepared faculty and two part-time adjuncts, two full-time Master's prepared faculty will be hired for fall 2017 when the third and fourth semesters of the nursing program are offered at the Norwich branch campus for the first time.

**Canvass Results:** A canvass of the institutions of the Southern Tier was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. No objections were received.

## **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the State University of New York master plan authorizing State University of New York College at Morrisville to offer its first program in the Health Professions discipline, an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Nursing, at the Norwich campus. The amendment will be effective until February 15, 2018, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will transmit it to the Governor with a recommendation for favorable action. Following gubernatorial approval, the A.A.S. Nursing program will be registered.