



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: The College of Staten Island of the City University of New York: Authorization to Award the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) Degree

DATE: December 9, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents authorize the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York to confer the additional degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) at the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its December 2013 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

At its November 26, 2012 meeting, the City University Board of Trustees adopted a resolution authorizing the College of Staten Island to offer D.N.P programs in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist. The Department received CUNY's request on November 29, 2012.

Background Information

Paragraph (8) of Section 6206 of the Education Law authorizes the CUNY trustees to: "...grant the certificates, diplomas and degrees which were announced in

the bulletins of the existing public institutions of higher learning published for the term beginning immediately prior to April sixteenth, nineteen hundred twenty-six, and also such other degrees and honors as the regents thereafter specifically authorized or may hereafter authorize it to grant.”

Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents the College’s first use of the D.N.P. degree title. Board of Regents approval of this authorization will allow the registration of acceptable programs leading to the D.N.P. degree.

The proposed D.N.P. programs are consistent with the College’s mission to provide equal access and opportunity to students from diverse backgrounds through the provision of academically integrated programs of study. Following the College’s addition of the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, the D.N.P. degree contributes to the strategic plan to offer a richer array of rigorous graduate programs. The proposed programs are consistent with the recommendations of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) to advance the current level of preparation for advanced practice nurses from the master’s degree to the clinical doctorate by 2015.

The proposed programs consist of 87 credits, including 1,000 hours of faculty-supervised clinical practice, to be completed in five years of full-time study. Coursework includes 6 credits of foundational nursing science; 12 credits in research and leadership; 12 credits of courses in the clinical practice role; 39 credits of D.N.P. core in advanced science, ethics, health care finance, informatics, and advanced therapeutics; 6 elective credits; and 12 credits for integrated capstone projects. Clinical experiences will be arranged with preceptors who are nurse practitioners, physicians, or clinical nurse specialists in the various clinical practice areas. The School of Nursing maintains agreements with multiple clinical agencies in metropolitan New York and New Jersey.

Currently, the College offers graduate nurse practitioner programs leading to a Master of Science degree and possesses the academic infrastructure (library, classroom, and skills laboratory, etc.) sufficient to support graduate student learning. At the initiation of the programs, the current cadre of faculty, all credentialed at the doctoral level, will be able to support the projected enrollment. An additional two new faculty lines will be added in year four as the first cohort begins the integrated capstone experience.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize the CUNY Board of Trustees to confer the D.N.P. degree on duly qualified students successfully completing registered D.N.P. programs at the College of Staten Island effective December 17, 2013.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the degree authorization, the Department will register the proposed D.N.P. programs.