



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse: Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) Degree

DATE: July 9, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents authorize the State University Board of Trustees to confer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree on duly qualified students successfully completing registered programs at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its July 2012 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

On June 12, 2012, the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees adopted the following resolution:

Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to seek the authorization of the Board of Regents for the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse to confer the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.).

On June 15, 2012, the Department received the State University of New York Health Science Center's (Syracuse) proposal requesting registration of four programs leading to the D.N.P. degree.

Background Information

Subject to the approval of the Board of Regents, this resolution will authorize the State University of New York (SUNY) Health Science Center at Syracuse to confer the additional degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.). Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents the Health Science Center's first use of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree title. Authorization by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents will allow the approval of programs for the D.N.P. degree. The proposed programs will support SUNY's overall commitment to a healthier New York and strategic goals for diversity.

The D.N.P. offers an alternative to research-oriented doctoral programs, such as the Ph.D. and the D.N.S. Nurses with either a bachelor's or master's degree will have curricular pathways to the doctoral level. The national organization that represents baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, is moving towards requiring all programs that prepare advanced practice nurses (nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and nurse midwifery) be at the doctoral level and that the degree to be awarded is the D.N.P. The School of Nursing at the Health Science Center at Syracuse seeks to offer the D.N.P. degree in keeping with national trends and requirements. Upon approval, the SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse would be the fourth SUNY institution authorized to confer the D.N.P. degree; SUNY Stony Brook received authorization in January 2008; SUNY Binghamton received authorization in January 2010; SUNY Buffalo received authorization in September 2010. New York State also has seven private institutions authorized to award the D.N.P. degree: Columbia University, Daemen College, D'Youville College, New York University, Pace University, St. John Fisher College and the University of Rochester, and one City University of New York (CUNY) institution, Hunter College. At this time, there are 182 D.N.P. programs throughout the nation, a 98% increase since 2008 (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2012). The curriculum is consistent with the standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), and the College of Nursing will seek CCNE initial accreditation for the program in 2014, after one year of operation.

The SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse is proposing four D.N.P. programs. These programs will be in the areas of clinical nurse specialist, family health, family psychiatric/mental health, and pediatric health. Each program leads to eligibility for national certification and the three nurse practitioner (NP) programs lead to New York State certification in the specialty areas of family nurse practitioner, psychiatric nurse practitioner and pediatric nurse practitioner. Projected enrollment in the first year is for 20 students, 10 full time and 10 part time all entering the program with advanced standing, holding a Master of Science degree and NP certification for the NP programs. In the second and succeeding years of operation, the projected enrollments are between 15 - 20 new students annually. In the third year, an additional 10 students will enter as the first cohort of post-Baccalaureate students. By the fifth year, and thereafter,

total enrollment is projected to be about 110 students distributed across all four programs. By 2016, it is anticipated that 10-20 students will be graduating yearly.

The SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse is an institution with considerable experience and expertise gained from many years of offering a range of graduate degrees in the health science field including advanced practice nursing. The Health Science Center is authorized to award doctoral degrees including the Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and Doctor of Philosophy. The School of Nursing offers a variety of nursing programs including an upper division program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree; and nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist and nurse educator programs leading to a Master of Science degree and Post-Master's Advanced Certificate. The post-baccalaureate programs leading to the D.N.P. degree will require completion of between 80 - 86 credits depending on prior nursing education and 1050 clock hours of clinical experience designed to be completed over three years of full-time study and six years of half-time study. Clinical experiences will be offered through preceptorships with nurse practitioners, physicians, or clinical nurse specialists in the various specialty areas. Clinical practice experiences will be arranged with agencies in the geographic locations of the students. Course coordinators will establish preceptor arrangements at each site.

Approximately half of the credits in each of these post-baccalaureate programs represent new coursework. In addition to clinical specialization, practica and role courses, the remaining coursework covers content in the areas of Advanced Pharmacology, Physical Assessment and Pathophysiology; and Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Evidence-Based Practice, Informatics, Legal and Ethical issues, Nursing Research, Nursing Theory, Organizational and Systems Leadership, Population Health, Public Health Policy, Quality and Safety in Healthcare, and Teaching and Learning Principles. In 2014, to be consistent with the recommendations of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Consensus Model for Advanced Practice Nursing Education, Regulation, and Certification, the School of Nursing will consider closing admissions to the stand-alone Master of Science degree programs in these specialty areas depending on enrollment patterns.

The intended enrollment will not strain the resources of the School of Nursing. The President has approved two new faculty lines that will be filled prior to the start of the program in January 2013 and five faculty lines by year five. There is sufficient academic infrastructure to support a terminal degree in nursing practice. Technology and the use of the Blackboard online learning management system has been approved for current programming and will be used to support a variety of instructional strategies in the D.N.P. programs. A majority of the theoretical courses will be in hybrid format.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize the State University of New York Board of Trustees to confer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree on duly qualified students successfully completing registered D.N.P. programs at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse effective July 17, 2012.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board authorizes the Trustees to confer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse, the Department will proceed to register the proposed D.N.P. programs in Nursing and the University will proceed to recruit and enroll students in the programs.