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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

UH Hilo Administration
Office of the Chancellor

April 26, 2011

MEMORANDUM

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
BOARD OF REGENTS

TO: Howard H. Karr
Chairperson, University of Hawaii Board of Regents

VIA: M.R.C. Greenwood *MRC Greenwood*
President, University of Hawaii

FROM: *for* Donald O. Straney *dlk*
Chancellor, University of Hawaii' at Hilo

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH AS A PROVISIONAL PROGRAM,
THE DOCTORATE IN NURSING PRACTICE (DNP) AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII' AT HILO (UH HILO), EFFECTIVE FALL 2012

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

The University of Hawaii'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) requests that the Board of Regents authorize a new provisional degree, the Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP), effective Fall 2012.

ADDITIONAL COST:

The proposed DNP program anticipates additional costs associated with the hiring of one full-time faculty member each year for the first three years of the program. In addition to the salaries of these three faculty members, there are expected costs associated with faculty recruitment activities and professional development activities. No additional physical classroom, faculty offices, or laboratory space will be needed. The program will utilize on-line and executive model courses allowing for use of existing BSN facilities. The community is the laboratory in a DNP program; therefore student experiences will occur in clinics, hospitals, and rural health care settings, eliminating the need for additional laboratory space.

Funding to develop and implement the DNP program will be through the use of grant funding and tuition revenues. The School of Nursing has already received the following two grants: (1) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funding for development of a DNP program grant for \$350,000 and (2) a Special Congressional Initiative Health Resources Services Grant for over \$383,000. In addition to these grants already received, the School of Nursing plans to apply for a HRSA program funding grant for the first few years of operation. In the event that no additional grants are received, the program is predicted to be sustainable with tuition revenues by the second year of operation.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Fall 2012

PURPOSE:

To educate and train nurses to meet the increasing minimum education requirements for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

BOR Policy Section 5-1a (1) & (2) and Executive Policy E5.201 provide for the process to establish new programs at the University of Hawai'i. The proposed Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) program at UH Hilo will culminate in a Board conferred degree and falls under the policies and procedures identified above.

Currently a master's prepared nurse can enter into an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRNs) position. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) endorsed a Position Paper which calls for a change in the minimum education requirement for APRNs to be increased from a master's degree to a practice doctorate by the year 2015.

In addition to meeting the increased educational requirements for APRNs, the creation of the DNP program at UH Hilo will help address the primary care provider shortage in Hawai'i. Currently there is such a lack of primary care providers available to residents of Hawai'i that the State of Hawai'i has been Federally Designated a Medically Underserved Area. In 2009, the Governor of Hawai'i signed legislation deeming APRNs as "primary care providers." The statute grants Hawai'i's APRNs with global signature authority, allowing access to full prescriptive authority (including controlled substances), medical equipment, and therapeutic regimens. Although APRNs nationwide have been working to help fill the primary care provider shortage, on the Big Island, there are only 76 APRNs (State of Hawai'i Board of Nursing Report, October, 2009). This is one of the lowest ratios of APRNs per capita in the US (1 APRN per 2,252.5 residents of the Big Island).

The UH Hilo School of Nursing has collaborated with the UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene in the creation of two differentiated pathways leading to the DNP. UH Mānoa will offer a post-master's program to RNs with a master's degree in nursing or a related field. To meet the need for primary care providers on the Island of Hawai'i, UH Hilo proposes to offer both a post-baccalaureate and post-masters entry

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into the Family Nurse Practitioner DNP program. The two programs will collaborate to strengthen the individual programs and create system level efficiencies. The programs have worked together to create a MOU to guide efforts to jointly consult, share best practices, create opportunities for faculty exchange, and allow access into specific courses at each campus for students.

Lastly, the DNP program is going to be a key component of the Rural Health Sciences Initiative. This initiative was set forth by Chancellor Straney in the Fall of 2010. The Rural Health Sciences Initiative is planned to draw together health care providers to solve rural health problems in Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific by means of research, education, community service, and policy development. The unit will be housed in the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy. Through this initiative, the UH Hilo School of Nursing's DNP program will collaborate with many partners in improving health care in our rural environment.

The UH Hilo School of Nursing received Authorization to Plan the Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) from the UH Hilo Chancellor on August 18, 2010, following presentation and support from the Council of Chief Academic Officers on August 16, 2010.

The UH Hilo Faculty Congress approved the Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) proposal on December 10, 2010.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

The Board of Regents approves the establishment as a provisional program of the Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP), effective Fall 2012.

Attachment

Doctorate in Nursing Practice program proposal

N.B. A hard copy and an electronic copy of the full proposal (over 300 pages) will be available at the BOR office.

C: Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board Keith Amemiya