

November 2, 2006

To: Michael Leung, Dean, College of Science
Carolyn Fong, Chair, Department of Nursing and Health Sciences

Cc: President Qayoumi
Henry Reichman, Chair, Academic Senate
Carl Bellone, Associate Vice President
Janet Patterson, Chair CAPR

From: Fred Dorer, Interim Provost

Subject: Nursing Program Review

On November 2, the Interim Provost, the Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Graduate Studies and the Chair of CAPR, met with the Chair of the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Dean of the College of Science for the purpose of discussing the five year program review of the University's BS Degree in Nursing.

The primary documents available to the group included the department's self-study, CAPR's report to the Academic Senate dated January 18, 2006, plus an outline of the proposed five year expansion of enrollment proposed by the department and the college.

The outcomes of the discussion included recognition of the quality of the program, its importance to the region, and the dedication and competence of the faculty. The CAPR review and report were very helpful in identifying the strengths of the program and the challenges ahead.

Campus academic administration recognizes the importance and quality of the program and acknowledges the commitment of the faculty to responding as well as is reasonable to regional needs. The department and the college propose a growth plan that will expand access, particularly in the Contra Costa region, that will increase admissions from the current 109 (44 of which are at the Concord site) to 130 (half of which will be at the Concord site) by the 2007-08 academic year. This expansion will result in the corresponding FTES enrollment growing from the current 542 to 819 by 2009-10.

Growth of this magnitude will be contingent on the following factors.

1. Sufficient number of placements being available at hospital sites for the students to complete rotations in the practicum component of the curriculum. The proposed expansion will put us at the limits of anticipated placement sites.

2. There will be a need for expansion of laboratory and support facilities at the Concord site, and upgrading at the East Bay site. Sufficient funds to support the facilities expansion and upgrades are contained in Prop. 1D. If these funds do not become available, expansion will be more limited.
3. The proposed expansion will require the addition of about four tenure-track faculty within the next two-three years. Currently the department is recruiting for two faculty who will begin employment fall 2007. Doctorate level nursing faculty are expensive and hard to find. Several dimensions of the issue were discussed including: hiring MS degree faculty; appointments of "Clinical Faculty", and identifying exemplary graduates for the "Forgivable Loan" program while keeping them connected to them through part-time employment as lecturers.
4. The department is encouraged to implement its plan to have resident faculty at the Concord campus.
5. CAPR's recommendations regarding assessment of the degree program need to be a part of the ongoing process of planning, implementation, evaluation and assessment. Nursing programs are among the pioneers of outcomes based assessment in academia, and the department is strongly encouraged to further develop and make effective use of the assessment of learning outcomes and program effectiveness.

The Nursing Program and the Dean of Science have been successful in obtaining external funding to help support expansion of the program (John Muir Foundation grant, CSU extra funding, hospital support). Expansion of the program to almost double its FTES would put an excessive strain on the campus budget, and thus external support is necessary to fully carry out this ambitious plan. Without such support the expansion will have to be more limited. Campus entities, including the Office of the Vice President for University Advancement and the Vice President for Enrollment management, will have to play appropriate roles in helping to implement the plan.

Finally, we wish to again extend appreciation to the Nursing Program for their quality work on behalf of our students and the community.