BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Kent State University
Doctor of Nursing Practice

Recommendation

The proposed program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degree programs. There were no serious concerns raised in the review. The Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted unanimously to recommend approval for the new program.

Request: The Kent State University College of Nursing requests approval for a new professional Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program.

Program Purpose/Mission: In 2004, the American Association of Colleges in Nursing (AACN) established the position that all advanced practice master's degree programs must transition to the doctoral level by 2015.The College of Nursing at Kent State University proposes to implement a professional nursing doctoral degree program that will move its advanced practice master's degree program to the doctoral level, consistent with recommendations of the accrediting agency. The proposed DNP focuses on clinical practice rather than research, distinguishing it from the PhD in Nursing. The goal of the proposed DNP program is to prepare nursing leaders to engage in professional nursing practice in complex interdisciplinary healthcare environments and emergent systems. The DNP curriculum is designed to support students' development in: the design and implementation of innovative models of health care delivery; the translation of research into practice; the evaluation of clinical outcomes and best practices; and the identification and management of the health care of individuals, communities and populations within a global context. The proposed DNP program will initially be offered as a part-time program for post Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) students with advanced practice certification to accommodate the students' demanding work schedules and family obligations.

Curriculum: The curriculum has been designed with two entry pathways to the DNP, depending on the educational level of individual students. These pathways are: a) post-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (post-BSN) entry, which includes courses in an advanced practice specialty; and b) post-master's entry with two variations: (1) post-master's entry for students who are advanced practice nurses; and (2) post-master's entry for students who are not advanced practice nurses. In order to accommodate the multiple entry pathways, the proposed DNP curriculum is comprised of courses that are organized into three categories: A, B, and C. Category A is comprised of core courses typically found in Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) curricula (22 semester credit hours). Category B is comprised of specialty courses that vary according to the MSN advanced practice concentration (12-34 semester credit hours). Category C is comprised of core DNP courses (37 semester credit hours), with the final course as the Capstone Project. The proposed DNP program requires a minimum of 71 semester credit hours and 1040 clinical hours for graduation.

Enrollments: Kent State University proposes to initially enroll only post-master's advanced practice nurses into the proposed DNP program, which is consistent with the pattern being followed in a majority of programs nationally. Twelve part-time students per year will be accepted into the post-Master's entry pathway. Entry of post-BSN students and MSN students who are not advanced practice nurses will begin in the future.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources: Kent State University has 22 full-time tenure-track doctoral faculty members, 20 of whom hold tenure. Seven of these faculty members are Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) who maintain a clinical practice. The college also has several non tenure-track APNs who teach in the master's specialty courses, one of whom holds the DNP, and another, the PhD. One is enrolled in a DNP program and four have expressed intention to enroll in DNP programs. Overtime, Kent State University expects that the DNP will be taught, for the most part, by DNP practice-oriented faculty, while the PhD faculty will continue to function as researchers and contribute to the complimentary research and clinical missions of the colleges. KSU plans to add one FTE DNP-prepared faculty member within the first two years of the program. The income generated by the tuition from DNP students is sufficient to cover hiring costs of new faculty for the DNP clinical courses. Facilities to support the proposed DNP are excellent. The nursing college is located within its own building, which provides nursing classrooms, a state of the art Simulation Laboratory, conference rooms, laboratories and offices for faculty, administration, staff and graduate students. KSU's library has sophisticated online services through KentLink that will be available to this proposed DNP program.

Rationale and Need: Based on intensive study of the health care system and review of the findings and recommendations of many national groups, the AACN concluded that the nursing profession's current practice of preparing advanced practice nurses in master's degree programs was no longer adequate. The growing complexity of health care compounded by an escalating demand for services, burgeoning growth in scientific knowledge, and increasing sophistication in technology pointed to the need for advanced practice nurses to be leaders in collaborating across disciplines, experts in evidence-based practice, and skilled users of information technology. Because Kent State University has the largest nursing program in Northeastern Ohio, the proposed DNP is in demand. The appeal of the proposed KSU DNP degree lies in the high quality of its nursing programs at all levels, tuition costs, number of graduates wishing to return to their alma mater, the geographical proximity to several medical centers, and easy driving distances to Kent from Cleveland, Youngstown and other nearby locations. Demand for

nurses continues to outstrip numbers of graduates. In the local area, expected growth of employment for 2004-2014 is 24%, and annual openings for nurses average 512. Kent State University has expanded enrollment at all levels and expects strong interest in the proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

End of Comment Period: November 15, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved:	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	12/3/10 Date

MLC