COMMITTEE:  Educational Policies and Planning Committee

MEETING DATE:  August 31, 2012  Called to Order:  1:04 PM.  Quorum established.

PERSON PRESIDING:  Mark W. Sprague

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:  Ed Stellwag, John Kenney, Joseph Thomas, David Smith, Kanchan Das, Susan M. Bashinski

MEMBERS ABSENT:  DeeDee Glascoff, Saman Abdulali

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:  Linner Griffin, Tom McConnell, Anthony Overton, Leigh Patterson, Jeff Popke

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:  Sylvia Brown, Dean of the College of Nursing; Jenna Presser, Associate Dean of the College of Nursing; Mary Ann Rose; Bobby Lawler; Lori Lee

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item:  Consideration of the Request to Establish a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program

Discussion:  The College of Nursing asked for consideration of their Request to Establish a DNP degree program because of changes that are affecting nursing education practice nationwide. It is anticipated a “Doctor of Nursing Practice” (DNP), will soon be required for entry into advanced practice nursing across the country. In October 2004, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing approved the target date of 2015 for increasing the recommended educational preparation for entry into advanced practice nursing to the clinical doctorate level (as opposed to a Ph.D., research-oriented degree). The Nurse Anesthetist Association has mandated that, by 2025, individuals sitting for their professional certification examination must have a clinical doctorate.

ECU’s nursing practitioner program is the largest such program in the State of North Carolina. Currently, approximately 500 students are enrolled in ECU’s various graduate nursing program; approximately 300 of these are in clinical practice areas. Therefore, failure to approve the proposed DNP degree program request would prevent advanced practice nurses from achieving professional certification, which would have a significant negative impact on ECU’s nursing program, the university as a whole, and eastern North Carolina’s health care delivery system (where the majority of ECU graduate nursing students have, historically, been employed).

As part of the requirements for the proposed DNP program, all DNP students would complete an additional 36 hours online for a post-masters DNP. After completing these hours, students would transition into one of several specifically-focused areas of study for the DNP.
ECU’s School of Nursing was presented with two requirements from GA, in order to secure their support for DNP program approval:

1. The new program must be budget-neutral
   (The Vice Chancellor for Heath Sciences has already committed two additional faculty positions for two years, in support of the DNP program and the School of Nursing has received approval for a tuition surcharge of $100 per credit hour.)

2. Cooperating with UNC-Pembroke, in particular.

ECU’s School of Nursing proposal is due to GA October 1st—thus the urgency of this request.

The majority of students in the graduate program are nurses who are currently employed and are completing their nursing studies as part-time students. All of the students who complete the advanced degree in Nursing are offered well-paid positions in nursing, so students’ motivation for pursuing advanced degrees, like the proposed doctorate, is very high.

Questions / Comments from EPPC Members:

1. There was a question asked concerning the amount of grant support expected for the program. The proposal mentioned the total expected grant support of approximately $40,000.—This amount of support seemed low? What is the source?
   The respondent pointed out that while additional grant support will be requested, the $40,000 was from a source that could be reasonably assured, based on past experience; this was, therefore, included. This is the only grant on which School of Nursing can depend. Additional grant funding will be sought.
   A follow-on question was asked about the expected operating deficit and how that deficit would be handled if it occurred.
   The response was that a deficit of about $100,000 could be expected.

2. Why does recruitment for ECU’s nursing programs target only the State of North Carolina?
   Currently, all clinical rotations are required to be done in the State of NC (approx. 700 hours of direct, hands-on care is required in the ECU master’s program; DNP requires 1,000 hours). College of Nursing faculty visit each student, on-site, during his / her clinical rotations to ensure the quality of students’ clinical experiences. Each state has its own licensure requirements for the practice of nursing, which means that College of Nursing faculty charged with monitoring clinical rotations out-of-state would have to be licensed in other states and travel to other states. The College of Nursing will accept students from other states IF the student will commit to doing ALL clinical rotations in the State of NC.

3. How does the School of Nursing faculty ensure the quality / mastery of practical requirements through online instruction?
   The majority of didactic content can be delivered through synchronous and asynchronous online instruction. Nursing faculty employ a variety of distance models, including: hybrid course delivery; bringing students to campus for targeted sessions; setting up experiences with adjunct faculty, in community-based health care settings. Moreover, the students are provided extensive hands-on experience through their clinical rotations.
4. Considering other DNP programs in the country—is ECU’s program the only online program?  
   No—several other programs in the country are, also, online. Two other DNP programs in NC are, also, online—Duke and Greensboro  
   Also, ECU has a very sophisticated virtual clinic available.

5. “Budget neutral” issue – GA meant they will not provide any additional money beyond the amount of money presently allocated to support advanced nurse training. Is it correct that the College of Nursing budget reflects what will be done internally, on this campus (i.e., implementation of the tuition surcharge) to address the gap between funds needed and available funds? Simply stated, “Yes.” For start-up, two additional faculty members should be sufficient and a commitment of support for these faculty has been made by the VC for Health Sciences. Beyond this, the tuition surcharge will hopefully provide adequate resources to support growth of the program. The proposed budget will be “budget neutral;” might need to reallocate “other resources” within the College of Nursing, to adequately support the program. Does this not affect other programs and, therefore, indirectly “budget?” Honestly cannot make this prediction now; will have to wait and see how the program unfolds.

   [Comment that receiving permission for the tuition surcharge is surprising. Last year, however, UNC-Chapel Hill raised costs for all graduate students $3,500. UNC-Greensboro has implemented a surcharge of $1,000 per student per semester.] In light of these facts, the suggestion was offered, and strongly emphasized by more than one member of the EPPC, that ECU’s College of Nursing seriously consider increasing the amount of the tuition surcharge, especially if the proposed surcharge turns out to be inadequate.

6. RE: Budget suggestion – it would be preferred to overcharge initially and then, if possible, reduce the surcharge post-year one—if all the budget needs of the new program have been met.

7. What has the nursing faculty learned, regarding online delivery of DNP courses, from other online DNP courses? Nearly all consultations, regarding curriculum, were conducted with educators from other institutions who do teach in online programs. Therefore, the full DNP proposal reflects information gleaned from such sources.

8. Overall, the EPPC compliments the College of Nursing faculty for a well-prepared, clearly articulated budget and proposal.

Action Taken:
Motion to approve the online Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program – Stellwag
2nd – Kenney

APPROVED unanimously.
Agenda Item: Decision regarding who will present the minutes of this emergency EPPC meeting to the Faculty Senate September 11th.

Discussion: Is not Ed Stellwag still the vice-chair of the EPPC, since the 2012 – 2013 organizational meeting of this committee will not take place until after the 9/11 Faculty Senate meeting? As such, it is recommended that Dr. Stellwag present minutes of the 08.31.2012 meeting to the Faculty Senate.

Action Taken:
Motion to approve Dr. Stellwag’s representation of the EPPC at the 09.11.2012 Faculty Senate meeting–Kenney
Seconded.

APPROVED unanimously.

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

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Agenda Item: Decision re: EPPC Representative for Program Planning Workshop – September 7, 2012

Discussion: Program planning workshops, scheduled for September 7th and September 21st by the Office of Academic Program Planning and Development, have traditionally been co-sponsored by the EPPC. Need someone from EPPC to make opening remarks at these workshops, on behalf of the Faculty Senate.

If EPPC is designated as a “co-sponsor,” then to what extent is the committee expected to be involved in the actual work of program planning?

Mark Sprague will be in attendance, but as the representative of the Faculty Senate, overall.

Kenney suggested the EPPC should provide a separate representative to offer remarks regarding the committee. Nominated the EPPC current Vice-Chair, Ed Stellwag.

Action Taken:
Motion to approve EPPC’s co-sponsorship of the Program Planning workshop AND Ed Stellwag’s representation of the EPPC September 7th– Kenney
2nd – McConnell

APPROVED unanimously.

Assigned additional duties to: N/A
Meeting Adjourned 1:51 PM.

NEXT MEETING: September 14, 2012

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:
1. Election of EPPC officers for 2012 – 2013
2. (Bashinski suggestion: Discussion of need for EPPC representative for the September 21st Request for Inclusion Workshop)

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan M. Bashinski