



Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

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November 9, 2010

Dr. Sylvia Brown
Dr. Mary Ann Rose
Mr. Bobby Lowery
Mr. John Core

RE: Request for Authorization to Plan the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

I am pleased to inform you that the Academic Program Development Collaborative Team recommended support for the Request for Authorization to Plan the Doctor of Nursing Practice at its November 5, 2010, meeting.

Collaborative Team members noted with interest the American Association of Colleges of Nurses (AACN) recommendation that the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree be required for all advanced practice nurses by 2015. Multiple strengths found within the College of Nursing also were identified in your proposal:

- Existing faculty
- High enrollment master's level practitioner programs, which can serve as feeder programs for the new degree, and
- A successful record of online delivery of graduate degree programs

Starting your proposed 36-hour degree with post-masters nurse practitioner students and eventually developing a BSN-DNP concentration appears quite reasonable. The MSN curriculum provides a solid base for practitioners and is a logical beginning place for your DNP curriculum. Also of interest was your belief that the proposed doctorate would not attract students from the research-based PhD in Nursing because of the potential students' commitment to clinical practice. Your plans to secure grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support your students is both admirable and essential. Team members also were impressed by your faculty's plan to offer the DNP degree with fewer new faculty (one-half) than the current funding formula might generate because of the number and talents of your existing faculty.

Collaborative Team members encourage you (a) to begin the online degree approval process through Continuing Studies, (b) to connect your plans to work with military families and military health care facilities with the university's goal and to ECU's recent award, and (c) to emphasize the need for more qualified practitioners as an essential ingredient for rural health care in eastern North Carolina.

By copy of this letter, I am informing Provost Sheerer and members of the Academic Council of our recommendation that the Doctor of Nursing Practice proceed through the on-campus approval process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linner W. Griffin".

Linner W. Griffin
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs

Cc: Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, Provost
Dr. Phyllis Horns, VC for Health Sciences
Dr. Deirdre Mageean, VC for Research and Graduate Studies
Dr. Scott Gordon, Chair, Educational Policies and Planning Committee