

MINUTES

UTAH EDUCATION COMMITTEE BOARD OF NURSING

December 9, 2010

Room 474 – 4th Floor – 7:30 a.m.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

CONVENED: 7:34 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 9:08 a.m.

Bureau Manager:
Secretary:

Laura Poe
Shirlene Kimball

Conducting:

Peggy Brown

Committee Members Present:

Peggy Brown
Mary Williams
Pam Rice
Gigi Marshall

Guests:

Kimball Johnson, CEU
Robert Gilbert
Glenda Christiaens, Fortis College

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION **NEW BUSINESS:**

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

October minutes:

Tabled

Review NCLEX pass rates for provisionally approved programs:

Ameritech is currently the only provisionally approved program with students taking the NCLEX examination. This month's pass rate was low because of the extremely small number of students taking the examination.

Ms. Poe discussed with Committee members changing the way the rule is written regarding the length of time after graduation a student may take the examination. The current rule states a student must take the exam within three years of graduating or up to four attempts, whichever is later. Ms. Rice suggested changing the rule to read a student may take the exam up to four times in four years. All Committee members were in agreement with this suggestion.

Fortis College,
Request for Curriculum change approval:

Ms. Christiaens met with Committee members to discuss revisions to the curriculum for Fortis College. Ms. Christiaens explained the changes and indicated the curriculum change will be taking place at all Fortis College nursing programs across the country. Ms. Christiaens stated that students are currently considered in the nursing program even though they are taking their general eds. Ms. Christiaens stated the biggest change will be to front load the general education courses, which is similar to the way university programs offer general eds. The second year of the program will be nursing courses. She reported other changes will be adding general biology course instead of biochemistry.

Dr. Williams stated she is concerned with the retention rate. In March the retention rate was 68%. Ms. Christiaens stated that the students were in general education classes and no one has dropped out now that they are in the nursing core courses. Ms. Christiaens stated that student attendance has also been an issue in the general education courses.

Ms. Christiaens indicated a cohort started October 21, 2010 and the next cohort begins January 2011. She stated they would like to accept 24 students in the cohort. She indicated in the future the program will have four start dates and the April start date would fall under the new curriculum, if approved. She indicated the first group graduates February 2012. Dr. Williams stated her concern is with the compactness of the program and whether or not students can learn in that period of time. Ms. Christiaens stated the program feels they have mechanisms in place if a student is having programs. Dr. Williams made a Motion to approve Fortis College to move forward with the curricular changes. Ms. Marshall seconded the Motion. All Committee members in favor.

College of Eastern Utah,
Kimball Johnson, Nursing Program Director
Robert Gilbert:

Mr. Johnson reported the College of Eastern Utah has implemented the changes discussed with Committee members several months ago. He reported they are also looking at making additional changes. Mr. Johnson submitted a report regarding students by campus. Mr. Johnson stated he did not realize there

was a problem with the program until last year when he was contacted by the Board. He stated he feels that adding additional students and accepting students with lower GPA's have affected the program.

Mr. Johnson questioned Committee members regarding the Rule that reads that a nursing education program must maintain an average pass rate on the NCLEX examination that is no more than 5% below the national average pass rate. He state that the Rule does not specifically state first time test takers. Ms. Poe indicated that is correct, and the rule will need to be changed to state first time test takers.

Mr. Johnson stated the program has initiated passing the ATI at a level two. If the student does not pass at a level two, the student will receive an incomplete grade. Mr. Johnson stated the program receives pressure from the community to keep the slots filled and this means that the admission criteria is set lower than they would like. He stated they have considered raising the admissions criteria and requiring a student have a B minus GPA to be accepted into the program. Committee members indicated that a GPA of 2.7 is a B minus and Committee members would recommend a GPA of 3.0 as admission criteria. Mr. Johnson stated with the B- criteria, not all slots will be filled and that the pool of applicants is different for each campus area.

Mr. Johnson reported he feels faculty members on the San Juan campus are experiencing burn out. Mr. Johnson stated to help with this situation the program has discussed hiring another faculty member or will consider offering the program on alternate years. He stated will also visit the San Juan campus more frequently. Dr. Williams commended Mr. Johnson for looking at the problems and developing a good plan of action.

Review of Written Reports from:
Ameritech College
Julie Aiken:

Report reviewed. Ms. Poe stated the April 2011 quarterly NCLEX report will indicate how the program is doing. Ms. Brown questioned how they ended up with 46 students in a group? Committee members questioned whether or not there were

students that had to make up work and ended up in the next group, or if they had alternate students that were accepted. Ms. Brown questioned whether or not they added additional faculty members for the additional students. Ms. Poe stated she would contact Ameritech and find out the answers to those questions.

Eagle Gate College,
Lee Duke:

Report reviewed. Ms. Marshall had a question regarding the two students in remediation and whether or not this means they are retaking fundamentals. Ms. Poe indicated she will ask for clarification.

Everest College,
Rebekah Lynch:

Report reviewed. The program is currently advertising for a nursing director.

Fortis College,
Glenda Christiaens:

Report reviewed and accepted.

University of Southern Nevada,
Marlene Luna:

Report received.

Western Governor's University,
Carolyn Lewis:

Report received.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

February 10, 2011
Date Approved

(ss) Peggy Brown
Peggy Brown, Co-Chair, Education Committee, Board of
Nursing

February 10, 2011
Date Approved

(ss) Noel Taxin
Noel Taxin, Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational &
Professional Licensing