

MINUTES

UTAH EDUCATION COMMITTEE BOARD OF NURSING

November 10, 2011

Room 474 – 4th Floor –p.m.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

CONVENED: 8:15 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 9:46 a.m.

Bureau Manager:
Secretary:
Division Staff:

Debra Hobbins
Shirlene Kimball
Ray Walker, Reg/Compliance Officer

Conducting:

Peggy Brown, Co-Chair

Committee Members Present:

Peggy Brown
Gigi Marshall
Sheryl Steadman

Guests:

Patricia Hartley, Western Governors University
Jan Jones-Schenk, Western Governors University
Marlene Luna, Roseman University
Sue Jero, Nightingale College
T.J. Carter, Mountainland ATC
Geeta Maharaj, Everest College
Mark Staats, Broadview University
Malinda Daniel, Broadview University
Delos Jones, Broadview University
Faye Uppman, Broadview University

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

October 13, 2011 Minutes:

The October 13, 2011 minutes were approved with corrections. All Committee members in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Western Governor's University,
Jan Jones-Schenk and Patricia Hartley:

Ms. Jones-Schenk reported that Western Governors University has not implemented the innovative program approved by the Board. She indicated the primary mission of Western Governors University is to support the needs of the workforce and at this time, there are not enough students to begin the Utah

program. However, Ms. Jones-Schenk reported the nursing programs in California and Texas are doing very well. She stated that WGU's first graduating class in California had a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN examination.

Ms. Brown stated Committee members are concerned that WGU has been approved as an innovative nursing education program for a period of time and no students have been admitted to the program. Ms. Brown questioned how long approval continues if a program is not moving forward? Ms. Marshall stated that the Nurse Practice Act Rule, R156-31b-607(4) indicates that the Board may rescind the approval if the nursing program fails to implement the innovative approach as presented and approved. Ms. Marshall indicated the proposal from WGU was to admit students within one year, beginning January 2011. Ms. Marshall questioned whether or not the program would be admitting students anytime soon? Ms. Jones-Schenk stated the program is based on need and she would not be able to provide a timeframe.

Mr. Walker indicated that the Nurse Practice Act Rules, section R156-31b-604 sets forth the actions that the Division can implement if a nursing education program does not meet the standards in rule. Mr. Walker indicated the options would be: issue an Order changing the type of approval, require the program limit students or cease accepting new students, require a remediation plan, withdraw the approved status, or move forward with agency action and place the program on probation.

Ms. Marshall stated WGU and Ms. Jones-Schenk spent a lot of time preparing the innovative nursing program proposal and presenting it to the Board. Ms. Marshall questioned the re-application process if program approval is withdrawn and stated there should be a faster way to grant re-approval of the program. Ms. Marshall questioned whether or not Ms. Jones-Schenk could submit a feasibility report and not have to repeat all of the work completed this far? Mr. Walker stated that a MOU could be drawn up suspending the program approval and outlining the criteria that needs to be met before re-approval. Ms.

Jones-Schenk stated she is worried that the suspension would be considered as a disciplinary action and would have a negative connotation on the program. Mr. Walker stated the MOU would be a non-disciplinary program withdrawal. Ms. Marshall made a Motion to have a non-disciplinary MOU drafted, withdrawing approval until the program is ready to move forward and accept students. The conditions to be met for re-approval would be to submit a current feasibility study, submit documentation of workforce needs and submit documentation of current accreditation. Dr. Steadman seconded the Motion.

Discussion: Ms. Jones-Schenk stated she had not realized the Board was moving in this direction. She thought she was invited to present a status report for the program. Ms. Jones-Schenk requested clarification of the motion and questioned whether or not it would apply to the innovative program, or for both programs? Committee members indicated both programs were approved together, and both programs would be included in the document.

All Committee members voted in favor of the Motion. The recommendation will be taken to the full Board.

Broadview University, Delos Jones, Faye Uppman, Mark Staats:

Ms. Uppman reported Broadview University has been conducting a deep analysis of the nursing program. Ms. Uppman reported the following changes are being implemented: 1). The nursing program chair position has been posted with an application deadline of December 15, 2011. Ms. Uppman reported she will remain in Salt Lake City until the issues have been resolved. 2). There are five full time faculty members. Four are Master's prepared and one is enrolled in a Masters degree program and is expected to finish May 2012. Ms. Brown stated that the section of rule that allows for faculty enrolled in masters programs was intended for those programs already in existence and needed time to bring the faculty in compliance with the rules. All new nursing education programs should hire masters prepared individuals and then provide the experience. Ms. Marshall stated the program should also look at what national accreditation bodies require and be sure to meet those requirements also. 3). Faculty development. Opportunities for scholarship

and teaching/learning and evaluation methodologies are being identified. Ms. Uppman reported that the workload of faculty has been decreased from 300 to 250 student contact hours per term. This will allow faculty to work on scholarly activities for curriculum development and teaching methodologies. 4). A revised curriculum has been approved through the internal Academic Council and will be presented to the Committee. 5). Admission to the program is currently suspended to allow for attention to current student needs and program analysis and revision. Revised criteria will be applied to future enrollments and the progression of program outcomes determines the time for resuming admissions to the program. 6). Curriculum Revision was presented. 7). Assessment of Knowledge base: ATI resources were implemented January 2011. Evaluation tools are being developed for each course. 8). A nursing tutor process has been developed. Initiation of simulation activities being developed in existing curriculum and will be in each course in the new curriculum. 9). An ATI predictor exam is incorporated throughout the curriculum. However, students will not fail the class if they fail the ATI. Ms. Uppman stated this was just instituted in January 2011 and they are already seeing the benefits. Ms. Uppman provided Committee members with program outcomes and student learning outcomes and indicated they are meeting with students, looking at scheduling issues, have diminished the number of evening cohorts, developed a course in simulation, and have identified the faculty who have expertise in this area. She indicated since March they have not had the high turnover in faculty and faculty has been more consistent. They have seen a climate change in the student body. The admissions process has been reviewed, but it is on hold at this time.

Ms. Uppman stated they will notify the Board as soon as they hear from NLNAC. She also indicated the changes will not increase the fees charged to the students.

Ms. Marshall stated the other issue is the NCLEX pass rates. There have been 5 cycles that are significantly below the acceptable standard. The Division failed to draft the MOU to provide guidance and clarify where

the program stood at that time. The Committee recommended the MOU be drafted at the August 2010 meeting; however, since we did not give them notice and opportunity to be heard, the Division needs to follow established procedures at this time. The MOU needs to be issued citing non-compliance with the rules based on the low NCLEX-RN pass rates. The program has voluntarily agreed not to accept any more students until a process has been established. Mr. Walker stated if the NCLEX pass rates continue to drop, they will lose approval status. Dr. Hobbins stated that the MOU will be drafted and give them one more cycle. If the pass rates continue to remain low, approval may be withdrawn. Ms. Uppman stated the last graduating cohort was in September 2011. she reported seven students have taken the exam; however, there are a lot of students who still need to take the exam. Mr. Staats questioned what impact does that have for the students? Mr. Walker stated that the rules read that if the NCLEX results are below the national average five times, the program must cease at the end of the quarter/semester. Those students in the program would have to move to another approved program. The MOU needs to be conveyed to the students so that they understand the impact that if the next cohort of students have a low pass rate, the program will have to cease accepting students. This information should be given to the students at student meetings, etc. The Board does not get involved on how the students are notified, but we do need to know they have been notified. A Motion was made to issue a MOU changing the Full approval status to a probationary status according to the Nurse Practice Act Rule, R156-31b-603(11)(b) and shall remain on a probationary status for three years. The program must submit a written remediation plan for approval no later than December 7, 2011. Further action may be taken if the program is found to be significantly in non-compliance with the Nurse Practice Act Rules, such as continuing to fall 5% or more below the national average or the NLNAC accreditation is withdrawn. The program will need to provide the Division with a written copy of the articulation agreements, teach out arrangements, arrangements for student load deferments, arrangements for payments of student loans, and what monies will be paid back to the

student loan lenders if the program is terminated. The program has agreed to cease accepting new students into its nursing program. Ms. Steadman seconded the Motion. All Committee members in favor.

Review NCLEX Pass Rates for all Utah programs:

The NCLEX-RN National average pass rate for the 3rd quarter of 2011 was 85.07%. The following programs have pass rates 5% below the National average for this quarter: Broadview University (66.67%), College of Eastern Utah (76.47%), Dixie State College (78.57), Provo College (79.41%) and Stevens Henager College (70.59%). The National average pass rate for the NCLEX-PN for the 3rd quarter 2011 is 87%. Mountainland Applied Technology College had a 75% pass rate. Committee members requested the Division provide NCLEX pass rates for the last two years on all nursing programs to determine if any action needs to be taken for a program and if a program needs to be watched carefully.

Committee members indicated that Ameritech has had two quarters under the National average and will need to meet with the Committee to present a remediation plan.

Next meeting:

Will be scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 8:10 a.m.

Written Reports:

The written reports will be reviewed by Committee members and discussed at the next meeting if necessary.

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.

December 8, 2011
Date Approved

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

December 8, 2011
Date Approved

(ss) Debra Hobbins
Debra Hobbins, Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing