

MINUTES

UTAH EDUCATION COMMITTEE BOARD OF NURSING April 17, 2012

Room 464 – 4th Floor –8:30 a.m.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

CONVENED: 8:40 a.m.

ADJOURNED: 9:42 a.m.

Bureau Manager:
Secretary:

Debra Hobbins
Shirlene Kimball

Conducting:

Sheryl Steadman

Committee Members Present:

Peggy Brown, by telephone
Sheryl Steadman
Debra Mills

Committee Members Excused:

Gigi Marshall

Guests:

Rebecca Richards, Stevens-Henager College
Holli Sowerby, Stevens-Henager College

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Stevens-Henager College
Rebecca Richards, Dean of Nursing
Holli Sowerby, Associate Dean of Nursing

Ms. Richards and Ms. Sowerby met with Committee members to discuss the complaints received from Stevens-Henager students. Ms. Richards submitted a copy of the student handbook provided to each student. The student handbook was not dated; however, Ms. Richards indicated the language in the handbook has not changed since 2009. Ms. Richards also provided a copy of the enrollment agreement from 2009 and highlighted student responsibilities. Ms. Sowerby indicated each student is provided a copy of college rules and signs an agreement to abide by those rules. Dr. Steadman reviewed the handbook and indicated it includes requirements necessary to graduate. The student has to have completed all courses, take a pre-RN examination and upon successful completion of all course work, take the ATI exam. At that point transcripts would be forwarded to the Division and the student could sit for the NCLEX-

RN examination. Ms. Richards stated that the program has been using the ATI exam since the beginning of the program. The program is currently using the benchmark of level 2 which is a 90% indicator. Ms. Sowerby reported that in 2009 the ATI was used as a stand-alone comprehensive test and it was a stand-alone test at the time this particular student graduated. The program has since been restructured and a final class titled Seminar 2 was added. Ms. Richards stated the transcripts were issued in error by the registrar to this student. The student had not passed the ATI at the required level and was in remediation at the time the transcripts were issued. Ms. Richards stated this particular student has not been held to any standards other than those that were in place when she was admitted to the program.

Ms. Richards stated she was hired in July 2011 and Ms. Sowerby was hired a month later. Together they reviewed the 2009 handbook page by page to make sure it was correct. Ms. Sowerby stated the pink highlighted parts of the handbook indicate policy change. These changes pertained to issues like becoming a non-smoking campus and not requiring a lab coat. The orange highlight addresses changes that they are speaking to today. The yellow highlights indicate clarification, but no changes were made.

Ms. Mills stated that after reviewing the documents, she could not find a clear definition of the benchmark needed to pass the ATI. Ms. Richards stated they go over the national benchmark in class and indicate the student could get less than the 90% and still pass. Ms. Mills stated she is still confused, if reading a general statement and passing is based on a national standard, the student may also be confused. Dr. Steadman questioned how much additional time is required if a student is unsuccessful and is required to retake the ATI? Ms. Richards stated it could be four weeks or longer.

Ms. Brown questioned the status of the student who received her transcripts? Ms. Richards stated this student will not receive a diploma and the program will not report she is a graduate of the program. She will need to pass the ATI exam at the 90% benchmark.

Ms. Sowerby indicated this student stated she would not take the NCLEX examination until she was given the okay by the tutor, but decided to take the examination anyway. Ms. Sowerby stated the program has been trying to contact the student by telephone and e-mail and they had not received a response, so the program sent her a certified letter. Ms. Richards stated the program does not know where she is or if she is employed. Ms. Mills stated she has concerns with the student who received the information, but didn't follow the criteria. She questioned whether or not the Division should discuss with her the unethical conduct.

Dr. Hobbins stated there were six other e-mails received from students who had complaints regarding ATI issues. Dr. Hobbins read sections of the e-mails to Ms. Richards and Ms. Sowerby. Ms. Sowerby stated it would appear that these students are in the same cohort and this cohort had a problem with the Kaplan and ATI examination. Ms. Sowerby explained that the program reviews Kaplan first and then the students take the ATI exam. Ms. Sowerby stated that students in this cohort wanted to take the ATI before the Kaplan. Ms. Sowerby stated the program decided to allow this group of students to take the ATI examination first, but it didn't go well. After speaking with the President of the college, the program allowed students to retake the ATI and considered it their first attempt. Since there was a holiday, this decision was not made immediately and the students were unhappy. She reported it was resolved within 48 hours and allowed students to take ATI at their convenience. Some students tested within a week, others waited a month. The President was concerned that the students may be given transcripts before completing the requirements and suggested giving the student an incomplete until all issues were resolved. Ms. Brown questioned how many students are still in limbo? Ms. Richards stated there were 19 students in the group, 15 students were eligible to graduate at the end of the program; four students had been working with a tutor and three have completed, and one student continues to work with the tutor. Of the three who completed the remediation, one received his transcripts last week and the program does not

know what the other two are doing.

Dr. Hobbins stated she is concerned that there are so many students failing. Ms. Brown stated the program needs to make sure they are in compliance with the approved curricular changes. Dr. Tanner, NLNAC, will be coming to the program for a one-day focus visit. Committee members requested Ms. Richards let them know what NLNAC recommendations are made.

Ms. Richards also provided the Committee with the names of the Deans of Nursing for the last several years. These were: Rebecca Reese from January 2006 to March 2008; Traci Hardell from May 2008 to April 2010; Rebecca Ford, April 2010 to May 2011; and Rebecca Richards from June 2011 to current.

In summary: The ATI is included in a course and included in the grade. The final ATI is now an exit exam, and a student has two attempts to pass. If they don't pass, they work with a virtual tutor which may take the student an additional four weeks or longer to complete. The program pays for the tutor and the ATI has to be passed at 90% or greater. The program has made changes to course and program outlines.

Committee members indicated the program needs to develop a resolution for the students other than continued remediation. Committee members continue to have concern using the ATI predictor exam to determine pass/fail. The program should make it very clear to students what passing means and the school must have an open ended discussion with students so they understand the intent of the program.

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.

May 3, 2012
Date Approved

(ss) Sheryl Steadman
Sheryl Steadman, Education Committee, Board of Nursing

May 3, 2012
Date Approved

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