

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of the Nurse Educator Tri-Campus Graduate Certificates

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the graduate faculty of the Nursing Programs at UW Tacoma and UW Bothell and the School of Nursing at UW Seattle to offer the Nurse Educator Tri-Campus (NET) Graduate Certificates, effective Autumn Quarter 2010. The certificate programs will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled in the 2015-2016 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND

In October, 2009, the Graduate School Dean received a request from the Graduate Faculty of the Nursing programs at the three University of Washington campuses to establish coordinated Nurse Educator certificates. The NET Graduate Certificate Program consists of three certificate programs that are administratively housed on each home campus for oversight with respect to recruitment, admission decisions, advisement, and evaluation of progression and completion. However, these certificate programs are coordinated across the three campuses with respect to program objectives, courses offered, minimum admission requirements, and completion requirements. This provides a cohesive, consistent, and resource-leveraged area of study for students to prepare as nurse educators across a breadth of degree programs. The total certificate requirements encompass 15 credits.

The goal of the program is to educate nurses about how to teach effectively and creatively, using innovative technology in their professional careers. Program objectives are to prepare nurses as educators who are able to: (1) teach and evaluate students or clinicians in a practice-based science; (2) develop focused expertise in selected aspects of instructional methods; (3) engage in collaborative partnerships in education; and (4) synthesize a role as a nurse educator through a mentored educator experience. The program responds to a critical shortage of nurse educators in Washington State that is coupled with an increased demand for preparing nurses and skilled healthcare workers. It will be available to postdoctoral fellows, matriculated graduate students, and post-master's students.

The Graduate School Council met on February 18, 2010, to discuss the Nurse Educator Tri-Campus Graduate Certificate proposal. The Council unanimously recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the Board of Regents for review and approval.

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The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Dean of the School of Nursing, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation for program implementation.