

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Academic Programs

FROM: Steering Committee

RE: Nursing Educator Certificate Program

DATE: April 3, 2019

### **Background**

On March 28, 2019, Steering received a request from the School of Nursing Health and Exercise Science for a *Post Baccalaureate Nurse Educator Certificate* which would include 4 courses.

In accordance with College procedure, in May 2018, Yolanda Nelson from the School of Nursing met with the Graduate Studies Council and was given feedback on the proposal. Steering has consulted with GSC and while no written minutes of this meeting are available, GSC feels that the School of Nursing has met the College's procedural requirement of having consulted with them.

To gain further context for understanding this proposal, Steering emailed Dr. Yolanda Nelson. More information about the purpose of this certificate and the outcomes for students is provided in her response (March 31, 2019) which is quoted below.

Yes TCNJ is proposing a [TCNJ] certificate and is not ensuring that [students] will obtain their CNE certificate from the NLN. We will provide the tools/material that they need to be successful for the exam. The NLN just created a CNE clinical track which only requires an undergraduate degree (BSN).

Depending on your scope of practice a nurse educator may or may not need a graduate degree. In a lot of hospitals, a nurse educator either needs a graduate degree or specialized certification.

In higher education, a nurse educator will need a graduate degree (MSN) to teach at the community college level.

The nurses that sign up for this certificate program will either demonstrate an interest in teaching, preparation for the exam, and/or are interested in obtaining a MSN specializing in nursing education.

Lastly, our hospital affiliates are encouraging nurses to further their education and also seek out certifications. Two hospitals have already confirmed tuition reimbursement for those nurses that enroll (Hunterdon Medical Center and Penn at Princeton Hospital).

### **Charge**

CAP should consider whether there are any units that might be affected by the proposed new certificate that have not been consulted and whether the proposed certificate is consistent with the College's mission. If CAP agrees that all affected units have been consulted and that the new certificate is consistent with the College's mission, it may prepare a final recommendation without seeking further testimony.

### **Timeline**

CAP should complete its work, if possible, by the end of the Spring 2019 term. Steering has let the School of Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science know that its timeline, as outlined in the proposal, is aggressive and that more time might be needed.

### **Testimony Tier**

Tier 1 – The issue requires minimal testimony from the campus community. The assigned council or committee should consult with relevant stakeholders before preparing the final recommendation, but there is no need for surveys or open fora.

## **TCNJ Governance Processes**

*Step 1–Steering issues a charge*

*Step 2-Governance prepares a Preliminary Recommendation*

Once the appropriate standing committee or council has received the charge, it should start by collecting data needed to make a preliminary recommendation. It should receive input from affected individuals and all relevant stakeholder groups prior to making a preliminary recommendation. For issues that have broad implications or that affect a large number of individuals, initial testimony should be solicited from the campus community at large. For some issues, sufficient initial testimony may come from input through committee membership or solicitation from targeted constituent groups. When, in the best judgment of the committee, adequate clarity of the principles contributing to the problem are known, a preliminary recommendation should be drafted and disseminated to the campus community.

*Step 3–The Relevant Stakeholders provide Testimony*

Once a preliminary recommendation has been completed, the standing committee or council should seek testimony from the campus community. The testimony should be gathered in accordance with the Testimony Tier (see below) assigned to the issue by Steering. For issues that require public testimony from the campus community, the chair of the standing committee or council should approach the president of the appropriate representative bodies to schedule the next available time slot at a meeting of that body. Testimony should be gathered in a way that allows stakeholders to weigh in fully on the issue. Members of the standing committee or council that wrote the preliminary recommendation should be present to hear and record the testimony.

*Step 4–Governance prepares a Final Recommendation*

Once the standing committee or council has received appropriate testimony, it should revise the preliminary recommendation into a final recommendation. Once the final recommendation is complete, the standing committee or council should use sound judgment to determine whether or not more public testimony is required. If, in its feedback to the original preliminary recommendation, a stakeholder representative body requests to review an issue again, the committee or council is bound to bring it back to that body. If a full calendar year has passed since the formal announcement of the preliminary recommendation, the committee must re-submit a preliminary recommendation to the campus community. When the committee or council has completed the final recommendation, it should forward it to the Steering Committee. The final recommendation should be accompanied by a cover memo that summarizes the initial charge, how testimony was gathered and the nature of that testimony, and how the committee responded to that testimony, including a description of how the preliminary recommendation evolved as a result of testimony.

*Step 5–Steering considers the Final Recommendation*

*Step 6–The Provost and/or President and Board consider the Final Recommendation*

*Step 7–Steering notifies the Campus Community Testimony*

*For a complete description of all steps and of the testimony tiers, see Governance Structures and Processes, 2017 Revision, pages 21–24.*