Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
April 16, 2013

SUBJECT: Addition of a Degree Program Major: M.S.N. in Nurse Educator

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve Nurse Educator as a major for the existing Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree program effective fall 2013.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FGCU is authorized to offer master’s level programs under Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code 51.3801, Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse. These programs are offered as a M.S.N. with majors in Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Anesthesia, and Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner. FGCU is requesting permission to add a fourth major, Nurse Educator.

Nurse Educator was offered as a concentration within the Nursing major in 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010. It was suspended effective fall 2011 due to budget constraints and low enrollment. Since that time, the School of Nursing has received numerous inquiries from prospective students looking to enroll in a program with this nursing specialty. Several hospitals in the university’s service area are considering seeking Magnet Recognition Status through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). To achieve this recognition, hospitals must increase the educational level of their RN staff. In addition, the fact that master’s level education for nurse practitioners is being mandated to move to Doctorate of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) by 2015 presents an opportunity for the development of M.S.N. programs with alternative options for those who are not interested in earning a D.N.P. Moreover, when the Nurse Educator program was suspended, the B.S.N. program was undergoing major curricular changes that required increased attention from all faculty to improve licensure pass rates. Given that the B.S.N. program has stabilized and the licensure scores have been above the national average for the past three years, faculty can provide a more balanced focus across all programs and will be able to support the Nurse Educator program.
Nursing education is considered an advanced specialty in nursing. This specialty is viewed as a scholarly endeavor with unique knowledge and competencies. The proposed M.S.N. Nurse Educator program is based on core competencies for nurse educators as outlined by the National League for Nursing (NLN, 2005), the Council for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE, 2004), and supported in the Essentials of Master Education (AACN, 2011). The M.S.N. Nurse Educator program will provide a strong model to prepare students to assume faculty roles. Graduates may also seek positions in administration, consultation, research, or policy development. Graduates who move into academic faculty positions will be eligible for the national certification examination following a period of faculty teaching experience.

The curriculum was approved by the college curriculum team and subsequently approved by the university-wide Graduate Curriculum Team on February 12, 2013. Because this major is authorized under an existing CIP code, no additional documentation is required. No additional resources are needed to implement this program. The program is consistent with Florida Board of Governors Regulation 8.011 Authorization of New Academic Programs and Other Curricular Offerings.

**Supporting Documentation Included**: N/A

**Prepared by**: Associate Vice President for Academic and Curriculum Support
Cathy Duff

**Legal Review by**: Vice President and General Counsel Vee Leonard (April 1, 2013)

**Submitted by**: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ron Toll