Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: New Degree Proposal: Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Long Term Care Administration

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION
Approve new B.S. in Long Term Care Administration.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
FGCU is requesting permission to offer a B.S. in Long Term Care Administration.

Supporting Documentation Included: (1) Memo from Provost, and (2) Executive Summary

Prepared by: Dr. Cathy Duff, Director of Program Development

Legal Review by: General Counsel Wendy Morris (June 2, 2006)

Submitted by: Provost Bonnie Yegidis
May 18, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustee Larry Hart, Chair
    Academic/Student/Faculty Affairs Committee
    FGCU Board of Trustees

FROM: Bonnie L. Yegidis
      Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Long Term Care Administration

The College of Health Professions is proposing the addition of a B.S. in Long Term Care Administration. The proposed program builds upon the courses of the existing B.S. in Health Science degree program offered through the Division of Health Sciences. A degree in Long Term Care Administration prepares students to manage the business and administrative aspects of residential care for older adults and the chronically ill. As the aging population increases over the next few decades, the need for long term care administrators will continue to grow. The mission of FGCU is promoted by meeting community and market needs through a future-oriented, online accessible, student-focused program that fosters professional growth, career mobility, diversification, and careers for health professionals.

The proposed B.S. in Long Term Care Administration will be 120 semester credit hours in length, with the last 60 hours of upper division coursework offered online. The program is consistent with the criteria for new degree authorization adopted by the Board of Governors on April 30, 2003. There are no formal concentrations or tracks within this program. The proposed program has been approved by both the College of Health Profession’s curriculum team and the university-wide Undergraduate Curriculum Team.

Implementation of the B.S. in Long Term Care Administration program will provide Southwest Florida with a high quality program that is consistent with the university's mission. I recommend approval.
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

Executive Summary
New Program Proposal

Degree: Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
Major: Long Term Care Administration
College: Health Professions
Department: Health Sciences
Suggested CIP: 51.0701
Anticipated Implementation: Fall 2007

Program Description:

A degree in Long Term Care Administration prepares students to manage the business and administrative aspects of residential care for older adults and the chronically ill. Graduates of this program will have the knowledge and skills to manage nursing homes, assisted living facilities, retirement communities, hospices or long term rehabilitation institutions. Graduates also have the ability to work in any health administration setting, not just long term care administration. The proposed program will provide an excellent foundation for a wide range of career and graduate school pursuits including government work, research, and applied roles in health services.

The proposed curriculum consists of 120 credit hours. During the first 60 hours of study, students complete general education and common prerequisite requirements in the areas of accounting, computer science, economics, and nutrition, in accordance with state and university guidelines. The program also includes 60 hours of upper division online coursework in the major, which includes courses in the College of Health Professions interdisciplinary core, as well as courses specifically related to long term care administration, management, human resources, law, ethics, finance, marketing, patient care, and risk management. In addition, a 500 hour (6 credit hour) internship in a skilled nursing facility and the 3 credit hour University Colloquium are required. Graduates of this program are then eligible to sit for the licensing examination as a Long Term Care or Nursing Home Administrator.

The curriculum emphasizes competencies taken from the Florida Department of Health Board of Nursing Home Administrators requirements. These competencies include the
following: general administration and management; accounting and financial management; personnel management and labor relations; computer applications; long term care administration; health care planning and delivery; aging; government standards and regulations of long term care; legal aspects of health care administration, and patient care management.

Approval to offer this degree will be sought from the Florida Legislature, consistent with Florida Statute 1004.03(3), which states, “New colleges, schools, or functional equivalents of any program leading to a degree that is offered as a credential for a specific license granted under Florida Statutes or the State Constitution shall not be established without the specific approval of the Legislature.” Implementation of the program is anticipated for summer 2007.

Consistency with the FGCU Mission and Strategic Plan:

The university’s mission emphasizes undergraduate education utilizing cutting-edge technological tools and innovations in pedagogy in an active, learning-centered environment. The strategic plan calls for providing a future-oriented, online accessible, student-focused undergraduate education program that fosters professional growth, career mobility, diversification, and careers for health professionals.

The proposed program is consistent with both the mission and strategic plan. The proposed Long Term Care Administration program will provide activities related to the administration and management of long term care facilities, patients, and clients. Courses will be delivered online with a 500 hour internship in a skilled nursing facility under the supervision of a certified Administrator-in-Training (AIT) Preceptor. This educational experience will allow graduates to obtain the baccalaureate degree and prerequisite knowledge needed to sit for the licensing examinations for Long Term Care or Nursing Home Administrators.

Graduates will have the knowledge and skills to manage nursing homes, assisted living facilities, retirement communities, hospices, or long term rehabilitation institutions. Graduates also will have the ability to work in a variety of other health administration settings, such as hospitals, medical centers, and private practices.

Need and Demand:

The Administration on Aging (2003) predicts that, during the next 3 to 4 decades there will be a very significant increase in the number of older adults. This brings about a sharp increase in the percentage of older adults comprising the total population, which is brought about by shifts in birth rates and declines in death rates. The older population (65 years and older) numbered 3.59 million in 2003 and represented 12.3% of the U.S. population. By 2030, there will be about 71.5 million older adults, twice the number today. By 2030, approximately 20% of the population will be 65 years or older. The number of older adults residing in long term care facilities will double or triple by 2030. Florida’s percentage of elderly adults is three times the national average.
Given the above statistics and the demographics of Florida, it is evident that the need for long term care administrators will continue to grow. Statistics supplied by the Florida Health Care Association indicate the number of nursing home administrator applications has decreased 30% during each of the past three years. Many currently licensed administrators have over twenty years experience, which indicates that retirement of these individuals will have an impact on the profession in the near future. Most states, including Florida, require a baccalaureate degree for licensure as a Long Term Care or Nursing Home Administrator. Therefore the education of long term care administrators is greatly needed.

A listing of Long Term Care academic programs in the United States shows that 90% of the 106 programs at the associate, baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral level are offered as concentrations and not as a separate degree program. Eight (8) programs consist only of an optional course, while only 2 programs offer a separate degree in long term care administration (Long Term Care Education, 2005). There are no institutions in the State of Florida that currently offer a stand-alone program in Long Term Care Administration. Other institutions within the State of Florida offer concentrations in Long Term Care Administration through Health Services Administration programs, and not as stand-alone Long Term Care Administration programs. These include Florida A&M University, University of North Florida, and Lynn University, none of which offer courses through distance learning. The FGCU program will be the only program offered in the state that carries the name of Long Term Care Administration.

Many of the students this program will attract already are employed in long term care facilities as middle managers or assistant administrators. These students need a baccalaureate degree to sit for the licensing examinations and advance to an administrator level. Some of these prospective students work full time and cannot attend classes during the day. Others work the evening shift and are unable to attend classes on campus. Distance learning courses would enable these students to maintain employment and seek a baccalaureate degree.

Enrollment Projections:

The proposed Long Term Care Administration program consists of existing courses offered through the B.S. in Health Science program, except for four (4) new courses. The addition of the Long Term Care Administration program will add to the enrollment of existing courses in the Health Science program. Since 2002, as the University has experienced rapid growth, separate programs have been established for Community Health and Human Performance. Enrollment projections for the proposed BS in Long Term Care Administration are based on student enrollment numbers in other programs at FGCU and on the growth rate of the university. It is estimated that enrollment in the first year will be 9 (6.5 FTE), increasing to 19 (12.5 FTE) in Year 5.
Resources:

FGCU programs in the Division of Health Sciences are rapidly growing. Current faculty in the College of Health Professions will support the B.S. in Long Term Care Administration program. The faculty participating in this program will provide expertise, diversity and interdisciplinary connections to the curriculum. As both the Health Science and Long Term Care Administration programs grow, it will be necessary to add another faculty member with experience in Health Services Administration to assist with teaching courses, as well as a full time executive secretary for the Division by academic year 2008-2009. Office space and computers will be needed for new hires.

To add a bachelor’s degree in Long Term Care Administration, the Library would require only an additional $1,000 in start-up funds and $400 annually for monographs. The Division of Health Sciences is prepared to cover these costs. Existing journal subscriptions and on-line databases are sufficient to support this program. The total estimated costs of the program, including instructional support, will be $641,269 in Year 1 and $839,083 in Year 5. Again, these do not represent new expenditures but are based on current expenditures for the Health Science program.