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DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

PRACTICE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE Minutes

The Practice and Education Committee held a meeting on July 13, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. in Conference Room A , Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Blvd, Dover, Delaware.

PRESENT: Robert Contino, Kathleen Riley-Lawless, Linda Brauchler, Nancy Bastholm, Barbara Willey, Jo Ann Baker

ABSENT: Stephanie Evans-Mitchell

GUESTS: Sally Danz, Ann Dumphy, Marsha´ Horton, Agnes Richardson

PRESIDING: Dr. Contino

STAFF: Pamela Zickafoose, Executive Director, Delaware Board of Nursing

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Contino called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Dr. Contino and the committee members introduced themselves.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Ms. Bastholm made a motion, seconded by Ms. Willey, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting. By majority vote the motion carried with Dr. Baker and Dr. Riley-Lawless abstained.

EDUCATION – Interim Progress Report Review

Delaware State University

Dr. Contino stated the purpose of this meeting was to review the interim action plan submitted by Dr. Sharon Mills-Wisneski. However, Dr. Mills-Wisneski was no longer employed at DSU. He questioned whether the action plan would be followed since she authored the report. Dr. Sally Danz responded to his inquiry that she was the acting chairperson and all faculty had input into the report that was submitted and it was still the intention of the nursing program to continue to implement the actions in the report. Dr. Baker commented the report was well written and seemed like a good plan to move forward. Dr. Contino agreed. Dr. Zickafoose inquired about the timeline and Dr. Danz stated they hoped to implement the curricular changes in the fall but they needed Board approval and then ACEN approval. She clarified that incoming freshmen would have very few changes but the sophomores would be affected by deleting chemistry and adding pharmacology. In addition the SEPs were pending faculty

approval. Medical Terminology would be added in the fall but be offered by the allied health department at DSU until the Nursing department could develop the course. Dr. Danz explained they had a diverse student population and many students with English as a Second language (ESL) so they thought Medical Terminology was needed even though it is not normally taught in a BSN program. Critical Thinking and Clinical Reasoning was another new course to be developed. The juniors would continue with the “old program” in the fall.

Dr. Contino asked if there was a change in credit hours and Dr. Danz replied there would be either 120 or 121 with the deletion of a 4 credit Chemistry and addition of a 3 credit Pharmacology. However, she assured the committee there was a balance between nursing courses and general education with a 60/40 split. In addition the new curriculum will contain elective courses during the junior and senior years with topics such as contemporary trends in nursing and genetics. Dr. Contino also asked for clarification on the remediation process. Dr. Danz stated new admissions into the program would meet the new criteria and they were taking 24-26 students. There were nine junior level students who took a remediation class taught by an outside person. Dr. Danz also commented that ACEN found their tests were not at the application level and they contained very little pharmacology so the faculty was working on test improvements as well. She reported the first 10 out of 25 students who graduated have passed the NCLEX exam this year so far. Another planned improvement is to implement ATI. Dr. Baker stated her program used ATI and they provided a lot of support.

Members noted the ACEN report under Appendix A was not supplied with the Action Plan. Dr. Danz brought copies for committee members of the report and letter dated January 6, 2015. She informed members there was no longer a physician teaching the health assessment nursing course. Dr. Danz stated in order to be transparent there were issues with each ACEN standard but three standards would require a site visit in 2017. She noted that ACEN commented on the lack of graduate and employer survey data that the Board noted as well. Since then surveys have been developed and will be used in the future. Dr. Baker commented the self-forum conference by ACEN is worthwhile to attend and Dr. Horton stated four faculty attended last year. Dr. Riley-Lawless questioned what would happen if a course is failed in the junior year? Dr. Danz replied a student can only fail two nursing courses and then is no longer in the program but she agreed they needed to look at not making students wait a year to repeat a failed course. Dr. Horton discussed a Transition Course used between the junior and senior years to keep students immersed. The nursing program plans to update and distribute the Student Handbook at the beginning of the school year to communicate the changes to students. Dr. Danz stated the junior group is a strong group and they are collectively on the path to get the program moving. Dr. Contino commented how important it is for all faculty to support the changes. Ms. Bastholm questioned if faculty are part of the issue, what improvement plans were in place? Dr. Danz replied that the NCLEX blueprint is now being used to focus on what was needed to be known rather than what was “nice to know.” They are also reviewing teaching qualifications and teaching assignments to be aligned. Dr. Zickafoose stated that faculty development is very important. Dr. Baker stated that ATI and Pearson Vue have excellent resources as well.

Ms. Bastholm made a motion to approve the DSU action plan to be implemented in August 2015, and Dr. Baker seconded the motion. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

Annual Report Faculty Form Revision

Ms. Brauchler stated she and Dr. Evans-Mitchell met and worked on the form to make improvements to capture the cohorts and pass rates. She will email the form to Dr. Zickafoose who will disseminate to members for review and comments. Dr. Zickafoose asked members about a request from NCSBN to add a question to the annual report regarding clinical learning experiences. Ms. Brauchler made a motion to add the question as requested, seconded by Ms. Willey. By unanimous vote the motion carried. Dr. Zickafoose will add "Do you use another state/jurisdiction for clinical experiences? If yes, please list in which state/jurisdiction they are located." The results will be shared with NCSBN.

PRACTICE ISSUES - None

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

Other Business (for discussion only)- Dr. Contino provided an overview of the ACEN versus NLN issue for committee members. On June 25-28, 2015 the DOE met and recommended that ACEN lose accreditation capability which will affect over 1200 schools in the United States. He explained the Secretary of Education has 90 days to make a final decision. The other accreditation body is CCNE and the University of DE is the only school with this accreditation in the state of DE. Everyone agreed they hoped the organizations would come to an agreement to resolve this controversy.

Other updates included hiring Dr. Emily Hauenstein as Professor and Katherine L. Esterly Chair of Health Sciences and Senior Associate Dean for Nursing and Health Care Innovations for the school of nursing at UD. They are working on a proposal for a DNP program. DTCC is conducting a feasibility study for a BSN program to augment their Associate degree program and provide progression for their students. The DONL is working on a position statement for the BSN as entry into practice. The Board plans to collect workforce data with either the 2017 or 2019 RN renewal. NCSBN announced Dr. David Benton would be the new CEO of the Council upon Kathy Apple's retirement the end of September.

NEXT MEETING – TBD for review of annual reports in December.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pamela C. Zickafoose, EdD, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CNE
Executive Director, Delaware Board of Nursing