

A meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee was held on Friday, October 14, 2011, at 9:10 a.m. in CCRI's board room in Warwick.

Present: ASAC: Antonio Barajas; Tom Rockett; Jay Walsh (Chair)

URI: Donald DeHayes, provost; Tom Dougan, vice president for student affairs; Dayle Joseph, Dean of Nursing; Dean Libutti, vice provost; Denise Coppa

RIC: Cindy Padula, program director, MSN; Ron Pitt, vice president for academic affairs; Holly Shadoian, assistant vice president for academic affairs; Jane Williams, dean of nursing

CCRI: Maureen McGarry, dean of health and rehabilitation sciences; Lela Morgan, vice president for academic affairs; Ron Schertz, associate vice president for student services

RIOHE: Ray M. Di Pasquale, commissioner; Deborah Grossman-Garber, associate commissioner for academic policy and planning; Susan LaPanne, associate commissioner for finance & management; Deanna Velletri, executive assistant

Absent: Joan Abrams, Jane Sherman

1. Chair's Report

Chair Jay Walsh welcomed committee members and guests and gave a brief overview of the agenda.

2. Commissioner's Report

Chairman Walsh welcomed Commissioner Di Pasquale and announced that there would be no Commissioner's report at this meeting.

3. Approval of a Proposal from the University of Rhode Island to Offer the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Area of Emphasis within the Master's Program

Provost DeHayes reported that URI supports a very active and robust graduate program in nursing. He said the proposal brought forward at this meeting will meet a critical healthcare need in Rhode Island and in the region. He then introduced Dayle Joseph, dean of the College of Nursing, to present URI's proposal. Dean Joseph defined an acute care nurse practitioner as one who provides a continuum of health care services both inside and outside of the hospital setting. A copy of her PowerPoint presentation is attached to the file copy of these minutes. She said recent changes in hospital administration have decreased the amount of time an intern can spend working with patients on a daily basis. To fill this void, hospitals need to rely more greatly upon ACNPs and physicians assistants. Dean Joseph said the University was approached in 2006 by Miriam Hospital to offer the ACNP. In the interim, many graduates have assumed the role but without the proper training. URI's proposal represents a new area of emphasis within a well established and fully-accredited program. External reviewers have established the importance of the program.

ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT WAS VOTED:

THAT – the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the proposal to offer the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Track within the Master of Science in Nursing Degree at the University of Rhode Island; and

THAT – the Office of Higher Education convene joint quarterly meetings with leaders from the nursing programs at URI and RIC to facilitate information sharing and program and placement efficiencies with periodic updates to the Board of Governors.

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barajas, Rockett, Walsh

NEAS: 0

4. Approval of a Proposal from Rhode Island College to Change the Title of the Rhode Island College Acute Care/Critical Care Track within the Master of Science in Nursing Degree Program and to Expand the Program to Include the Nurse Practitioner Role for the Adult/Acute Care Track

Vice President Ron Pitt discussed the history of nursing at Rhode Island College. He said in August 2010, RIOHE granted provisional approval to RIC to offer the expanded MSN program to include nurse practitioner with the following conditions: that RIC's proposal be reviewed by an external reviewer and that any findings be addressed by RIC, that the program meet all CCNE accreditation standards, that enrollment be capped for the next two years, that RIC work with URI to ensure appropriate clinical placements, and that RIC engage in quarterly discussions with representatives of the other nursing programs in Rhode Island. Dean Jane Williams from the RIC School of Nursing introduced Cindy Padulla, director of the master's program, to present RIC's proposal (a copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached to the file copy of these minutes). Director Padulla said the relatively new master's nursing program was built on the already established bachelor's program. RIC's department of nursing became a school in 2006 concurrently with the approval of the master's degree of nursing program. The program has enjoyed a steady increase in enrollments since 2007. In 2008, master's education for nursing changed nationwide based on a consensus model for APRN regulation. All relevant major nursing organizations in the country have supported this change, and RIC moved quickly to conform.

ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT WAS VOTED:

THAT – the Board of Governors for Higher Education Approve a Proposal to Change the Title of the Rhode Island College Acute Care/Critical Care Track within the Master of Science in Nursing Degree program and to Expand the Program to Include the Nurse Practitioner Role for the Adult/Acute Care Track; and

THAT – the Office of Higher Education convene joint quarterly meetings with leaders from the nursing programs at URI and RIC to facilitate information sharing and program and placement efficiencies with periodic updates to the Board of Governors.

VOTE: 3 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barajas, Rockett, Walsh
NEAS: 0

Governor Barajas commended the institutions for their excellent nursing programs. He said that as an emergency room physician, he is well aware of the critical need for such programs. Chair Walsh acknowledged the tremendous amount of work that went into the proposals behind the scenes at the institutions and at the Office of Higher Education. Governor Rockett asked for clarification on certification, licensure and internship opportunities. He also questioned the opportunity for a joint program. Director Padulla replied that there will be many opportunities for articulation and transfer between the programs but emphasized the important distinctions between core courses. Chair Walsh added that at the last ASAC meeting in September, which was dedicated solely to Rhode Island's public nursing programs, it was determined that each institution's program serves a distinct population. He expressed his concern that student needs be seen as a priority for both institutions, particularly with clinical placements. Dean Joseph and Director Padulla agreed.

5. Update on RIOHE's Role as a State Approving Agency for the Department of Veterans Affairs

Associate Commissioner Deborah Grossman-Garber explained that the RIOHE is named as the State Approving Agency by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to monitor and oversee all programs and institutions seeking to offer academic programs to veterans who are eligible for VA benefits. Because of Post-911 legislation that will provide expanded benefits, our role has become more significant. Currently there are 2,000 veterans studying in Rhode Island at 21 different institutions. We are expecting a dramatic increase in veteran enrollments, with war winding down. There are currently 50 approved facilities, and RIOHE coordinates with each facility's school certifying official (SCO) regarding student services, problems, reimbursements, etc. RIOHE trains SCOs in the complex methodology that the VA has prescribed. RIOHE is now required to perform annual compliance audits for every approved facility. This will require anywhere from 2 days to over a week per facility depending on the number of veterans enrolled. RIOHE is looking to hire a new person to help with issues related to our DVA obligations, which are partially funded by the federal government but nowhere near the level that is required to do the work. Provost DeHayes asked if the new person could dedicate any time to the institutions because they are also swamped with similar DVA issues. Associate Commissioner Deborah Grossman-Garber said she would take that under consideration. Vice Provost Dean Libutti said that it is the certifying process that is so challenging. He said he is glad that this is a hot topic at the RIOHE because the campuses are struggling with it as well and any collaboration would be welcome. Ron Schertz said CCRI currently has 500 veterans, and he anticipates many more in the upcoming years; any RIOHE help would be greatly appreciated. Chair Walsh noted that he remembers his mother struggling with the DVA for benefits for his family after his father's passing. He suggested that we contact our congressional delegation to meet with RIOHE and the institutions to discuss bettering our service to veterans. He asked Associate Commissioner Grossman-Garber to set up a meeting.

6. Notice of Rhode Island's Post-Secondary Student Access and Persistence Program (Competitive RFP)

Associate Commissioner Deborah Grossman-Garber notified the committee that the Governor's office has designated RIOHE as overseers of \$1.5M/year in funding from the U.S. Department of Education to fund postsecondary access and persistence programs in Rhode Island. We have designated \$900K from this year's grant to provide academic and social/community-based services to support students from non-traditional communities. RIOHE has sponsored two training sessions for about 70

participants and interest is keen. Institutions of higher education will serve as project leads but must incorporate public, non-profit, private agencies. Based on data from 2008 CACG funding, where all \$375,000 went to student scholarships indicated that 1/3 of students never showed up to claim their money. Of those that did show up, over half did not return for the second year. Data coming from the College Crusade indicates that community-based services provided to students have increased retention rates to higher than average. We'll be working with this model in order to drive this grant process. Proposals are due November 28th. Notification of awards will be made December 19th. Projects will begin on January 1 to September 30, 2012.

7. 2012 Meeting Calendar

The schedule of ASAC meetings for 2012 was provided as part of the ASAC agenda. Meetings are scheduled three weeks in advance of board meetings in order to allow sufficient time to supply necessary paperwork for board agenda mailings. It was noted that past practice has dictated that if no approval items are coming forward, out of respect for board members' busy schedules, the meetings would not take place. Chair Walsh said he would confirm this with committee members. Members were asked to review the schedule and inform RIOHE of potential problems.

8. Other matters

Notes from the prior two ASAC informational meetings were provided. Because these meetings were informal, with no approval items voted upon, acceptance of the notes is not required.

- a. Notes from informational meeting on 9/16/11 (Rhode Island's public nursing programs)**
- b. Notes from informational meeting on 8/5/11 (ASAC orientation)**

9. Adjournment

/dv