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Academic Policy Advisory Committee meeting minutes, October 24, 2000

Minnesota State University Moorhead

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APAC Minutes
October 24, 2000

Members present: Midgarden, chair; Borchers, Borgeson, Conteh, Dalhouse, Edvenson, Enz-Finken, Goodman, Gracyk, Lane, Missiras, Ruth, Sanderson, Shreve, Weckler.

1. Tri-College University Nursing Master's Degree (Hearing Only)

(The Graduate Studies Committee approved this proposal at their 9/18/00 meeting.)

Dr. Barb Vellenga (MSUM Nursing Director) and Dr. Lois Nelson (the Tri-College University Nursing Director) presented the proposal. (APAC members introduced themselves to Lois Nelson). Dr. Dorothy Suomala, Graduate Studies Director, was also introduced and was present at this meeting.

Vellenga reported the following information:

- TCU has worked on this proposal for approximately 1 ½ years.
- A survey was conducted two years ago by Nelson. Vellenga conducted a survey in March, 2000, which received a positive response. That information was used to develop the five tracks of the proposal. Vellenga stated that interest in this program is strong because:
 - shortage of nurses in this area.
 - Registered nurses want to earn a graduate nursing degree.
 - there are no other graduate programs in this area, except the University of Mary, and they are having a difficult time finding qualified instructors. The University of Minnesota/MSUM collaboration will end this year.
 - TCU has developed strong relationships with health care agencies, nursing homes, etc.
- Pending all approvals, MSUM and NDSU will offer the degree program beginning fall semester 2001. Concordia can only offer courses as they are not NCA accredited for granting this degree.

VP Midgarden stated that it will be easier when Concordia can participate fully but each school will admit the same number of students. Students will be admitted to their own institution, enroll in courses through TCU and graduate from their own institution. Tuition will be the same for all students.

Vellenga stated that the first year 24 students would be admitted to the program. That would increase by 12 students the second year, assuming Concordia participates fully in year two.

Students would graduate with a Master of Science degree with a major in nursing. Graduates must take the national certificate exam. Students are responsible to take the exam and a curriculum is set up so they can apply for certification.

Sanderson asked how this will effect the two existing programs at NDSU and Concordia. Nelson stated that this will attract many undergraduate students and will become a recruiting tool. Vellenga stated that many people are confused about MSUM's nursing

program – students must be a registered nurse (RN) to be admitted to the MSUM's nursing program. Nelson stated that the baccalaureate programs at NDSU and Concordia began before TCU was formed. It was agreed at that time that MSU would not compete with the undergraduate programs.

Midgarden asked if there were other questions. Hearing none, she encouraged committee members to contact Barb Vellenga or Lois Nelson if they have questions or concerns regarding this proposal. APAC will vote on this proposal at the November 7, 2000 meeting.

(The APAC meeting was rescheduled to November 14, 2000, at 4:00 p.m. in the CMU Ballroom.)

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.
Gloria Riopelle