

**NURSING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 3, 2009**  
**NCTC TRF Campus**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sue Field (Director of AD), Kent Hanson (Vice President NCTC), LeeAnn Harwarth (DON Merit Care Hospital), Kari Koenig (faculty), Norma Konschak (Dean TRF), Amy Petrovich (student), Mei Sather (faculty), Dorinda Sorvig (Director of PN), Carmen Stinson (faculty), Wendy Wagner (DON Oakland Park), Tracy Wright (MSU-M)

**1. Introductions were made**

**2. PN Updates**

- Mahnomen – Second PN group started fall semester 2009 (15 students)
- Roseau – 30 PN students started program fall semester 2009
- TRF - 190 PN diploma students spring semester 2010; 54 PN AS students spring semester 2010
- Students are now required to complete their general education classes prior to taking any nursing classes
- Beginning spring semester 2010, students must pass a TEAS entry test before they're accepted into the PN program

**3. NCA Visit**

- College wide NCA visit will be April 26 – 28, 2010
- In preparation for this visit, NCTC is seeking comments from the public about the college through the Commission's website: [www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org](http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org) (Please click on "File Third-Party Comments" on the left side of the screen)

**4. NLNAC**

- Site visit will be February 10 - 12, 2010 for the AD-PN Mobility Nursing Program Self Study written
- 2 clinical sites will be visited – Riverview in Crookston and Merit Care in TRF
- Community meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10

**5. AD Nursing Program Strengths**

- Diane Gold, NLNAC consultant, said NCTC's biggest strength is our faculty
  - All AD nursing faculty have completed their MS degrees
  - They attend national and local conferences
  - They are supportive of evidence based research
  - They are committed to helping students succeed
- Students had 8 hours of service learning fall semester and will have 8 hours spring semester
- 60-70 students will be attending Day on Capitol Hill (legislative day) in February
- Evaluation plan is strong
- Clinical facilities throughout NW Minnesota are willing to work with the college to provide experience for our students

## 6. AD Nursing Program Weaknesses

- **Time management for students:** Students now taking care of 2 patients by end of fall semester to promote time management
  - **Pass Rates for NCLEX-RN boards**

Pass rates 2007, 2008, 2009: Incorporated changes

    - Prior to 2007, we were around 90%
    - 2007 – 79%
    - 2008 – 78%
    - 2009 – 79.5% as of right now
    - Goal is 90 to 95%.
      - Causes:
        - 3 years ago RN boards got considerably harder
        - In 2007 we quit bringing our program to Bemidji and, as a result, all of our tenured faculty left. We then had a new director and new faculty
      - What we have done:
        - We've changed our philosophy from weaning to how can we help students succeed
        - ATI is now incorporated throughout the entire program
        - Decreased the number of tests to decrease the number of group testing points
        - Beginning spring semester 2010, students will only get group points if they pass the test by 80%. In the past, some students would not have passed the course if they had not received group points. Amy feels this is a good plan because some students are sliding by because of group tests.
        - We've raised the bar and students need to meet it!
        - Faculty are holding tutoring sessions for students
        - All classroom instructors in the AD nursing program have become permanent instructors within the last 3 years
  - **Simulation/Lab:**
    - We've bought into the Elsevier simulation program and all students did one clinical day of simulation fall semester. Students now want it incorporated into all coursework.
    - Proposal has been sent to Academic Affairs to change Med/Surg content to 2 credit lecture and 1 credit lab. (Simulation will be incorporated into Med/Surg content as of fall of 2010.
- Lab**
- We are in the process of hiring 2 separate people for lab assistants, both part time on each campus. Diane Gold, NLNAC consultant, said that not employing a lab person may be seen as a weakness.
  - This person will be primary PN support but will assist AD program setting up labs and ordering supplies.

**7. Advice from Committee Members**

- LeeAnn Harwarth said that students need to know nursing basics brilliantly by the time they finish our program. She also said that students need to be responsible – they need to be engaged employees and able to handle 4-5 patients or they will not last in a work setting.
- Norma Konschak suggested that we have advisory board member(s) present these expectations to students. It was decided that this could possibly be done during Role class prior to graduation.

**8. IV Certification**

- Students have asked that IV certification become a pre-requisite rather than a pre or co-requisite. Sue asked for a vote and it was unanimous that IV Certification become a pre-requisite.
- Tracy is concerned that if we implement this for the fall semester 2010 applicants, some students will not be considered for admission because of this policy change. It was decided that a letter will be sent to fall semester 2010 applicants who do not have IV Certification completed, explaining that if they are accepted into our program they will need to have this course completed by the time fall semester starts.

**9. Other**

- Kent applauds our focus on student success
- Tracy will attempt to speak with our students prior to graduation regarding RN – BSN programs at MSU-M
- Tracy reported that MSU and MSCTC are working on a pilot program so students can be dually enrolled

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruby Jenson