

## APPENDIX P

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of Governors Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: Alan R. Mabe

DATE: March 5, 2007

SUBJECT: UNC Nursing Exam Results for 2006 and Nursing Enrollment and Degrees Conferred Report

#### **UNC Board of Governors' Policy and Annual Reporting Requirements**

In May 1990, the University of North Carolina Board of Governors adopted the following policy and performance standards for UNC nursing programs:

A requirement that the president will consider, jointly with the Chancellor, an evaluation of the leadership, faculty, admissions policies and the curriculum of any program whose graduates do not achieve for two consecutive years an annual passing rate of 85% for first-time writers, and, a requirement that the president will ask the Board to initiate program termination procedures for any program having a first-time passing rate of less than 75% for two consecutive years.

This report on enrollment and licensure for the UNC nursing programs is prepared annually in accord with this Board policy. The UNC nursing students who took the NCLEX-RN exam for the first time in 2006 passed at an average rate of 92%. Four UNC campuses had passing rates above 95% (ECU, UNC-CH, UNCC and UNCW). Six of the nine campuses with graduates of prelicensure programs were at or above the Board standard for passing of 85%.

Two campuses have fallen below 85% passing rate for two consecutive years (NCA&T, and NCCU) and thus are below the BOG two-year standard. North Carolina A&T State University has fallen below the BOG's 85% standard for seven consecutive years while North Carolina Central University has been below the BOG's 85% standard for five consecutive years. WSSU fell below 85% in 2006 but not for two consecutive years.

The Board of Nursing maintains a required passing rate of 75%. NCA&T has fallen below that standard for two consecutive years. NCA&T's status with the Board of Nursing is on Warning

### **Response to 2006 Committee Report**

For the 2005 results, NCA&T had a pass rate of 69% and NCCU had a pass rate of 65%. UNCC had a pass rate of 77%. In accord with past practice, a Nursing Review Team composed of current or former nursing deans from out of state was formed to visit NCA&T and NCCU. UNCC was requested to commission their own external review.

The reports and responses are attached.

#### ***University of North Carolina at Charlotte***

UNCC commissioned a team composed of Dean Alexia Green and Dr. Patricia Allen from the School of Nursing at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The report identifies the strengths of the program and makes a series of recommendations for improvements. UNCC has prepared a response that appears to be reasonable to achieve improved performance on the NCLEX Exam. UNCC dramatically improved their NCLEX pass rate from 77% in 2005 to 97% in 2006.

#### ***North Carolina Central University***

General Administration formed a national team of nursing deans to visit both NCA&T and NCCU. The team was composed of Dr. Cynthia Capers (chair) who is a former dean of nursing at the University of Toledo, Dr. Marilyn Rothert former dean of nursing at Michigan State University, and Dean Richard Benjamin from Old Dominion University.

NCCU made significant improvement in their NCLEX pass rate yet fell just below the BOG standard. NCCU went from 65% in 2005 to 82% in 2006. The review team judged that NCCU had taken the right steps to improve student performance but they need to make sure that the changes are institutionalized. The Review Team had a number of recommendations for improving the program. The Planning Committee approved a requirement that NCCU program be reduced by 15% each year that it was below the 85% standard. Based on informal information given to the Review Team that visited NCCU that Central would achieve an 85% rate, the Review Team recommended the 15% reduction requirement be lifted, but once the official score of 82% was reported the Team rescinded that recommendation.

#### ***North Carolina A&T State University***

NCA&T made no improvement in 2006 over 2005 remaining at 69% a level below both BOG and Board of Nursing expectations. While the Nursing Review Team found some positives, they painted a picture of a program that had many problems and was far from where it should be in many areas. Given the number of years the program has been below acceptable levels for the NCCLEX passing rate, Harold Martin and Alan Mabe met with the Chancellor and the Provost of NCA&T on February 8, 2007 to review the report and their response and to indicate the seriousness of the situation in light of the fact that the Board of Nursing had placed the program on Warning. The Review Team also recommended that the size of the

program be reduced by 15% each year that it fails to meet the BOG standard of 85% passing rate.

### **Nursing Programs**

North Carolina has 65 nursing programs that train Registered Nurses. This includes 11 UNC baccalaureate programs (with new prelicensure programs at FSU and UNCP started in 2005), 44 associate degree programs offered by the North Carolina Community College System; 4 private baccalaureate programs, 3 independent ADN and 3 hospital-based diploma programs. According to the North Carolina Board of Nursing, the total number of students taking the exam from UNC programs increased from 830 in 2005 to 861 in 2006.

### **UNC Nursing Enrollment**

*[Section to be revised when data is ready]*

The baccalaureate-nursing enrollment increased from 2,571 students in fall 2004 to 2,774 in fall 2005. Only upper-division majors are included in the data. Campuses have an additional approximately 1,000 lower division students taking nursing courses and planning to be majors. UNC nursing schools and departments currently offer RN to BSN distance learning programs at sites throughout the state. Some nursing courses are also offered via the internet and through interactive video. The number of students enrolled in master's programs increased from 923 to 1,027 a sizable increase. The number of nursing students enrolled in a doctoral program reached a new high of 88 (57 at UNC-Chapel Hill and 19 at East Carolina, and 12 at UNCG which opened its new doctoral program in the fall of 2005). UNC graduate programs prepare advanced practice practitioners, nursing specialists, nursing scientists, health administrators and nursing faculty for the UNC and community college programs. Overall enrollment in UNC nursing programs increased by over 9% for fall 2005.

### **UNC Nursing Degrees Conferred**

Over the past ten years, the UNC nursing programs have been responsive to the needs of the state by expanding offerings and increasing capacity as much as possible in programs that have clinical requirements and mandated faculty/student ratios for licensure approval and accreditation. Since 1990 baccalaureate and masters degree production more than doubled. In this decade there has been a slight decline in baccalaureate degrees awarded but that has now turned around. For 2005-06 there were 1,269 baccalaureate degrees, 295 master's degrees and 10 doctorates awarded. The percentage increases over 2004-05 were 15%, 11% and 42%. The masters and doctorates will contribute to easing the shortage of faculty for nursing programs. The significant increase in enrollment should lead to further increases in graduates in future years.

### **Expanding Nursing Education in UNC.**

The North Carolina Institute of Medicine issued its report on Nursing, *Task Force on the North Carolina Nursing Workforce Report* in May 2004. The Board established a Committee on the Future of Nursing which made its report to the

Board in November 2004. Both reports document the need for increasing the number of nurses in North Carolina and increasing the educational level of nurses. UNC campuses are well along in developing enrollment expansion plans to achieve the ambitious goals approved by the Board of Governors to increase the production of nurses at every level.

#### Attachments

cc: UNC Nursing Deans

**The University of North Carolina Nursing Examination (NCLEX-RN) Results, 1987 to 2006 (First-Time Writers Only)**

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>East Carolina</b>																				
Number of Writers	86	83	71	61	70	88	130	117	131	136	165	111	127	120	147	165	134	161	181	194
Number Passed	65	51	67	61	64	85	118	106	126	115	153	104	118	109	136	160	109	134	170	192
% Passed	76%	61%	94%	100%	91%	97%	91%	91%	96%	85%	93%	94%	93%	91%	93%	97%	81%	83%	94%	99%
<b>N.C. A and T</b>																				
Number of Writers	10	8	8	7	11	31	33	39	45	81	62	56	53	48	37	56	52	43	67	54
Number Passed	5	8	6	7	10	27	28	30	39	64	48	48	44	37	29	43	39	35	46	37
% Passed	50%	100%	75%	100%	91%	87%	85%	77%	87%	79%	77%	86%	83%	77%	78%	77%	75%	81%	69%	69%
<b>N.C. Central</b>																				
Number of Writers	24	16	13	6	16	9	27	17	50	31	45	49	47	32	36	38	37	37	40	38
Number Passed	11	14	9	5	15	9	22	14	48	28	37	39	31	30	29	31	30	24	26	31
% Passed	46%	88%	69%	83%	94%	100%	81%	82%	96%	90%	82%	80%	66%	94%	81%	82%	81%	65%	65%	82%
<b>UNC-Chapel Hill</b>																				
Number of Writers	116	90	78	58	84	107	117	112	110	119	114	134	123	123	134	161	160	152	160	155
Number Passed	101	79	71	57	78	104	104	106	107	113	109	129	110	114	126	151	149	147	150	152
% Passed	87%	88%	91%	98%	93%	97%	89%	95%	97%	95%	96%	96%	89%	93%	94%	94%	93%	97%	94%	98%
<b>UNC-Charlotte</b>																				
Number of Writers	77	74	74	51	75	97	120	110	101	103	105	73	77	92	71	76	83	88	88	87
Number Passed	67	62	62	48	69	92	96	90	96	95	95	64	71	76	67	65	74	63	68	84
% Passed	87%	84%	84%	94%	92%	95%	80%	82%	95%	92%	90%	88%	92%	83%	94%	86%	89%	72%	77%	97%
<b>UNC-Greensboro</b>																				
Number of Writers	91	65	83	65	73	89	85	102	79	77	91	78	95	91	84	80	75	80	87	86
Number Passed	67	58	65	58	67	84	75	91	76	71	88	68	85	75	77	78	71	64	81	80
% Passed	74%	89%	78%	89%	92%	94%	88%	89%	96%	92%	97%	87%	89%	82%	92%	98%	95%	80%	93%	93%
<b>UNC-Wilmington</b>																				
Number of Writers	10	20	15	21	21	30	38	58	47	69	51	62	45	56	54	51	38	47	53	70
Number Passed	10	19	15	21	20	30	37	50	46	59	45	53	38	44	49	46	34	35	50	67
% Passed	100%	95%	100%	100%	95%	100%	97%	86%	98%	86%	88%	85%	84%	79%	91%	90%	89%	74%	94%	96%
<b>Western Carolina</b>																				
Number of Writers	34	42	35	35	31	30	39	34	39	33	43	32	39	45	43	41	42	42	41	55
Number Passed	30	28	31	31	28	28	39	33	38	32	33	29	37	39	41	36	30	37	36	47
% Passed	88%	67%	89%	89%	90%	93%	100%	97%	97%	97%	77%	91%	95%	87%	95%	88%	71%	88%	88%	85%
<b>Winston-Salem</b>																				
Number of Writers	8	14	18	20	9	50	52	71	64	88	73	121	60	92	63	44	34	99	113	122
Number Passed	6	7	11	14	8	48	44	61	58	78	64	90	55	83	53	41	32	96	98	101
% Passed	75%	50%	61%	70%	89%	96%	85%	86%	91%	89%	88%	74%	92%	90%	84%	93%	94%	97%	87%	83%
<b>Total UNC Writers</b>																				
Number of Writers	456	412	395	324	390	531	641	660	666	737	749	716	666	699	669	712	655	749	830	861
Number Passed	362	326	337	302	359	507	563	581	634	655	672	624	589	607	607	651	568	635	725	791
% Passed	79%	79%	85%	93%	92%	95%	88%	88%	95%	89%	90%	87%	88%	87%	91%	91%	87%	85%	87%	92%

UNC-GA ProgAssess/Nur.AT001.U/2-28-07

Note: Prior to 1990, figures did not include North Carolina graduates who took the exam in other states.

**Nursing Degree Credit Headcount Enrollment and Degrees Conferred, 1994 - 2006**

Year	ECU			FSU*	NCA&T	NCCU	UNC-CH			UNC-C		UNC-G			UNC-P*	UNC-W		WCU		W:
	B	M	D	B	B	B	B	M	D	B	M	B	M	D	B	B	M	B	M	B
<b>Enrollment</b>																				
1994	421	134		19	217	134	279	147	34	239	157	315	279	32	121		129			278
1995	537	137		28	240	133	283	177	32	246	143	332	273	41	145		131			279
1996	478	125		24	210	143	318	166	30	212	144	217	80	38	161		151			298
1997	423	102		28	163	163	305	146	27	173	161	319	230	47	165		149			362
1998	432	121		44	155	157	295	169	36	234	149	355	243	58	162	20	157			252
1999	437	92		35	139	126	300	141	39	217	159	371	290	49	150	28	137	30		270
2000	450	105		26	137	140	297	151	42	191	152	341	307	56	137	30	122	27		212
2001	420	92		17	153	113	334	168	50	218	172	289	238	52	127	25	116	41		216
2002	382	73	2	28	176	95	307	158	51	216	174	295	240	31	122	19	119	15		201
2003	483	123	10	23	220	91	311	148	52	224	176	323	247	44	132	21	67	29		388
2004	497	211	15	49	220	134	328	162	51	206	172	314	258	54	151	19	133	41		488
2005	500	290	19	49	220	109	331	177	57	187	153	318	281	12	99	163	14	134	49	662
2006	532	352	21	85	167	95	346	168	56	221	166	329	294	21	148	176	20	192	56	552
<b>Degrees Conferred</b>																				
1993-94	155	40		10	50	38	151	36	2	133	29	142	91	0	71		58			151
1994-95	184	29		13	61	74	129	39	2	107	52	121	79	7	50		61			168
1995-96	177	38		11	90	54	144	42	5	117	33	143	91	13	75		68			162
1996-97	226	52		13	65	66	151	68	7	129	37	149	85	12	60		74			173
1997-98	163	27		12	60	99	164	35	3	87	42	140	59	11	74	0	63			200
1998-99	180	43		18	61	72	142	78	3	123	31	149	64	33	73	0	79	0		188
1999-00	209	28		17	49	52	151	50	7	127	63	145	51	20	71	9	75	0		193
2000-01	202	33		18	39	59	151	53	2	110	48	155	107	18	64	12	71	0		130
2001-02	222	31	0	10	63	56	152	54	6	107	53	130	89	30	65	10	64	0		143
2002-03	159	31	0	5	55	47	170	62	7	143	54	116	18 **	17	47	7	67	23		150
2003-04	183	15	0	6	47	54	166	50	8	142	60	153	121	26	65	6	53	0		181
2004-05	225	33	1	19	61	41	174	46	6	119	48	151	93	0	13	59	9	60	11	183
2005-06	226	56	0	10	48	42	172	67	10	111	62	159	88	0	27	83	9	74	2	317

UNC-GA ProgAssess/Hlth.AT002B.U/3-2-07

B = Bachelor's Degree  
M = Master's Degree  
D = Doctorate Degree

Master's level at ECU and UNC-G includes post-master's degrees.  
Enrollment: Upper-division undergraduate & postbaccalaureate enrollment in the fall  
Degrees Conferred: Degrees conferred July 1 through June 30 of each year.

\*Joint RN to BSN program.

\*\* Forty-nine (49) unreported degree recipients in 2002-03 are included in 2003-2004 reporting cycle.