

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Full Board

AGENDA ITEM: V

DATE: May 21-22, 2009

SUBJECT: SDSU – Master’s Degree Nursing Practitioner Phase-Out Plan

The Board approved the SDSU Doctor of Nursing Practice and approved the termination of the nurse practitioner component of the M.S. in Nursing at the December meeting (*Minutes, pp. 3270 & 4018-4060*). The Board directed that no new nurse practitioner students be admitted to the M.S. program and asked the University to prepare a phase out plan for the current nurse practitioner students.

The SDSU phase out plan is provided as Attachment I. All M.S. nurse practitioner students and M.S. students who have not selected a specialization will be informed in writing.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Approve SDSU’s Master’s Degree Nursing Practitioner Phase-out Plan.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Graduate Program in Nursing
April, 2009

Phase Out Plan for the Master's Program for Nurse Practitioners at SDSU

- Step 1:** No new admissions to the Masters level Nurse Practitioner specialty following Board of Regents action December 2008.
- Step 2:** Current Nurse Practitioner students will be notified via letter regarding the discontinuation of the Masters level program and of the deadline for graduation – Spring 2013 (see attached Example A).
- Students currently enrolled in other specialties will be notified via letter of the deadline should they choose to change/select a nurse practitioner specialization (see attached Example B).
- Step 3:** The Graduate Program academic advisor will meet with students to develop an individualized plan of study schedule to facilitate completion and graduation by Spring 2013.
- Step 4:** Plan course offering schedule to accommodate completion of program by Spring 2013.
- Step 5:** Facilitate the graduation of all nurse practitioner students already enrolled in Master's level courses in the SDSU graduate program or in the partnership programs with the University of Missouri-Kansas City and University of Missouri-Columbia with the following projected graduation dates (see attached excel document listing by ID, Specialization, Site Year Admitted and Anticipated Graduation Date). Site: B:Brookings; SF: Sioux Falls; RC: Rapid City; I: Internet.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bunkers, PhD, RN; FAAN
Graduate Department Head & Professor

*Example A: Letter to currently enrolled students in a Nurse Practitioner
Specialization*

Date April 2009

Name
Address
Address

Dear

Our records indicate that you are currently enrolled in the South Dakota State University – Graduate Nursing Program pursuing your Masters Degree with a Nurse Practitioner specialization. Effective December 2008, following the South Dakota Board of Regents meeting, the Nurse Practitioner specialization is no longer offered at SDSU as a Masters level program. The Nurse Practitioner specialization is now offered as a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

Therefore, as a result of this change, we have implemented a phase out plan in order to provide students an opportunity to complete the Masters level degree requirements.

All students in the Masters level Nurse Practitioner specializations will be required to complete the degree requirements and graduate no later than the Spring 2013 semester. In collaboration with your academic advisor, Anna Atteberry, you will develop a Plan of Study schedule that will facilitate your path to the graduation deadline. Ms. Atteberry will be contacting you in the near future to schedule a meeting (face-to-face or telephone) to discuss this process.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions concerning this change. We look forward to assisting you in the attainment of your educational goals.

Sincerely,

Sandra Bunkers, PhD, RN; FAAN
Graduate Department Head & Professor

cc: advisor file
student file

*Example B: Letter to students in MS program, but not currently in a Nurse Practitioner Specialization**

Date April 2009

Name
Address
Address

Dear

Our records indicate that you are currently enrolled in the South Dakota State University – Graduate Nursing Program pursuing your Masters Degree as a Clinical Nurse Leader, Nurse Educator or Nurse Administrator. Effective December 2008, following the South Dakota Board of Regents meeting, the Nurse Practitioner specialization is no longer offered at SDSU as a Masters level program. The Nurse Practitioner specialization is now offered as a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

As a result of this change, we have implemented a phase out plan in order to provide students an opportunity to complete the Masters level degree requirements within the designated deadline parameters.

All students in the Masters level Nurse Practitioner specializations will be required to complete the degree requirements and graduate no later than the Spring 2013 semester.

**We are notifying you of this should you decide that you want to change your specialization to nurse practitioner. The window of opportunity for you to make a change is small; therefore, you will need to consider this and submit your request soon.*

If you decide to request a change, in collaboration with your academic advisor, you will develop a Plan of Study schedule that will facilitate your path to the graduation deadline. Please contact your advisor as soon as possible to discuss the options available to you based on your current course progress and standing.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions concerning this change. We look forward to assisting you in the attainment of your educational goals.

Sincerely,

Sandra Bunkers, PhD, RN; FAAN
Graduate Department Head & Professor

cc: advisor file
student file

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Full Board

AGENDA ITEM: W

DATE: May 21-22, 2009

SUBJECT: Student Health Insurance Renewal

History:

In 2007-2008, system administrators began to explore the possibility of achieving premiums savings or potentially enhancing health coverage by shifting to a managed care, noncommercial, government plan, not unlike the plans operated by the State Bureau of Personnel and the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. Our research revealed that such an approach offered multiple savings opportunities. In view of such potential savings strategies, discussions began with the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. In completing this agreement with the Associated School Boards and Avera Health Plans, the system saved approximately 16% in premium costs.

Premium FY10:

Student – Non Tobacco User	Proposed FY10 Annual	FY09 Annual History	Percent Difference from FY09 to FY10	FY08 Annual History	Percent Difference from FY08 to FY09
Single to age 25	\$ 709.33	\$ 675.30	5.04	\$ 781.85	-15.7
Single 25 to 29	\$ 934.46	\$ 889.63	5.04	\$1030.00	-15.7
Single 30 and older	\$1213.89	\$1155.65	5.04	\$1338.00	-15.7
Spouse	\$2,764.38	\$2631.74	5.04	\$3047.00	-15.7
Child	\$1,544.13	\$1470.04	5.04	\$1702.00	-15.7

The Tobacco Fee is 20% of the rate identified.

Plan:

There will be no plan changes this coming academic year. However, the athletic rider will have additional coverage to meet the NCAA Division I and II requirements [coverage up to

(continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Approve the proposed FY10 rates and the Avera Health Plans.

75,000]. Domestic student athletes will be required to purchase the athletic rider if they have no insurance coverage and alien student athletes not eligible for waiver are required to purchase the South Dakota Board of Regents Insurance Plan.

Demographics of Plan FY09:

Fall/Annual Enrollment	1058 students, 39 dependents/spouse for a total of 1097
Spring Enrollment	1108 students, 39 dependents/spouse for a total of 1146
Summer Enrollment	63 students, 8 dependents/spouse for a total of 71
Fall Premiums	\$553,886.28
Spring Premiums	\$296,564.30
Summer Premiums	\$ 24,198.41
Total Premiums YTD	\$874,648.99
Total Claims Paid YTD	\$290,837.00 (this does not include pending claims)
Estimated Total Expense	\$646,602.00 (Claims and Plan Expenses FY09 Total)
Estimated Loss Ratio	76.2%

Currently, Dr. Janice Minder is working with Avera Health Plans to arrive at FY10 premium rates. Dr. Minder has instructed Avera Health Plans that the premium increase must be below 10%. If all claims stay below the anticipated costs, this should not be a problem.

Discounts for the negotiated contracted services with our Plan include the following:

- Hospitals = 42.54% on Average,
- Professional Services = 29.00% on Average,
- Western Hospitals = 10.00% on Average, and
- Western Professional Services = 60.50% on Average.

Waiver Process:

This past Spring SDBOR implemented a waiver process which all institutions followed. We found that the student international advisors were perplexed about the federal definition of international students versus the BOR Policy 3:14 definition. Therefore, we found the need to create additional guidelines to help facilitate the definition of Aliens for purpose of satisfying BOR Policy 3:14. The intent of the SDBOR policy is that all Aliens purchase student health insurance unless they have legal South Dakota domicile. If a waiver is approved due to documented rationale, then the institutions will be required to place data point in Colleague.