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BOARD OF REGENTS

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AGENDA

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

August 28, 2019 • 10:45 AM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor
Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. Reauthorization of Existing Research Units
 1. Center for Collaborative Nursing Research - Southeastern
 2. LSU Health Sciences Center Epilepsy Center – LSU HSC NO
 - B. Routine Staff Reports
 1. Staff Approvals
 2. Progress Reports for Conditionally Approved Programs
 3. Letters of Intent / Proposals in the Queue
- IV. Academic Programs
 - A. Letters of Intent
 1. BFA Film & Television – LSU A&M
 2. MS Population Health – Southeastern
 3. PhD Justice Studies - UNO
 - B. Program Proposals
 1. AAS Cloud Computing – Delgado
 2. AAS Paralegal Studies – Delgado
 3. UCs (2) – UL Monroe
 4. MS Computer Information Systems – Northwestern
 5. PMC Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner – Northwestern
- V. Program Proposal Approval Process – Pilot Letter of Intent Waiver
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

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| Committee Members: Collis Temple III, Chair; Blake David, Vice Chair; Claudia Adley; Wilbert Pryor; Gary Solomon, Jr.; Jacqueline Wyatt; LCTCS Representative; LSUS Representative; SUS Representative; ULS Representative |
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AGENDA ITEM III A 1
REAUTHORIZATION of a PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESEARCH UNIT
SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY
CENTER for NURSING RESEARCH in EDUCATION & PRACTICE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) is requesting reauthorization of the Center for Nursing Research in Education and Practice (CNREP), and to rename it the Center for Collaborative Nursing Research (Center). The Center was granted initial full approval by the Board of Regents in 2009, with continued authorization granted most recently in 2014. The UL Board of Supervisors approved the request for continued authorization and renaming of the Center at its May 2019 meeting.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description

The nursing research Center provides the infrastructure to facilitate collaborative intervention research among students in nursing and health related disciplines. The Center seeks to expand partnerships that promote interprofessional education, consultation and practice in clinical, practicum and internship experiences with the goal of improving patient-centered care and health outcomes for individuals, families and communities. With Louisiana consistently ranking as one the unhealthiest states in the nation, there must be a common vision of providing community services, creating clinical evidence-based care projects, and other research collaboration to meet the increasing health needs of our region. The objectives of the Center are as follows:

- Promote research efforts and scholarly activities of faculty and students in the School of Nursing.
- Provide expanded direct services for the citizens in southeast Louisiana and beyond through clinical, community-based research, service-learning, and study abroad.
- Prepare the next generation of health care professionals with skills and competencies to work collaboratively with individuals, families, other professionals, and community-based providers to enhance health and wellness.
- Build on Southeastern's innovative health profession curricula, develop and enhance interprofessional educational experiences.
- Advance evidence-based research initiatives with healthcare agencies to improve team-based patient outcomes.
- Seek appropriate sources for external funding of projects.
- Support dissemination and integration of research results into clinical practice.

2. Activities

Center activities since its last authorization in 2014 have included, but are not limited to, the following:

- Partnered with North Oaks Medical System to implement a *Health Coach Program*, funded by grants totaling \$646,482, which trains students and health care professionals to work with patients upon discharge from the hospital, reducing the number of patient readmissions.
- Collaborated with the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health in two research projects funded by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) grants totaling \$1 million. The projects targeted occupational health training among Vietnamese shrimp fishermen in the Gulf region.
- With a \$25,000 donation by Coletta C. Barrett, alumna of the School of Nursing, established the *Cynthia Prestholdt Interprofessional Collaboration Fund* to expand interprofessional collaborative educational opportunities.

- Established the *John and Beverly Manzella Pediatric Simulation Lab* with \$100,000 in funds donated by Mr. Manzella in memory of his wife. The lab provides a realistic environment with hands-on, real-life experiences for nursing students similar to ones they will encounter in clinical training.

3. Resources and Administration

The Center for Collaborative Nursing Research is governed by an administrative team leveraging available resources to meet the Center's goals. The core administrative leadership consists of the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the department head of the School of Nursing.

4. Budget

The budget for the next five years includes revenue from institutional appropriations in addition to grants and contracts secured to date (e.g., NIOSH, BoR Enhancement Grant, etc.) as well as approximately \$4.5 million in potential additional grant funds. Total revenue is more than sufficient to cover expenditures which include the cost of a graduate assistant, travel, professional services and supplies.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The renamed Center for Collaborative Nursing Research continues to serve the South Louisiana community through training and research, as well as providing strong support for SLU's nursing student education and training. The Center's goal to add initiatives in the area of professional education and practice as well as to broaden the research agenda, along with its strong history and commitment to obtaining external funding will position it for continued success and relevance to the nursing profession and health care community.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior staff recommend that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend continued authorization of the Center for Nursing Research in Education & Practice as the renamed Center for Collaborative Nursing Research at Southeastern Louisiana University for a period of five years. A progress report and request for reauthorization shall be due by July 1, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM III A2
REAUTHORIZATION of a PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESEARCH UNIT
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER,
NEW ORLEANS
The EPILEPSY CENTER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans (LSUHSC-NO) is requesting reauthorization of The Epilepsy Center for a period of five years. The Board of Regents granted a one-year conditional approval of the Center in October 2002 and in October 2003 granted continued approval through October 2004. A proposal was submitted to the BoR for continued authorization of the Center for a five-year period in 2005; however, due to events related to Hurricane Katrina, action was deferred pending reestablishment of the Center's clinical and research activities. In 2008, the Epilepsy Center was reinstated by the BoR through September 2013, with continued authorization granted most recently in 2014. The request for continued authorization of the Center was approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors at their May 2019 meeting.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description

The LSUHSC Epilepsy Center was established to meet the clinical care and research needs of the approximately 5% of Louisiana citizens who experience seizures or epilepsy, recognizing that nearly 50% of people with epilepsy do not respond adequately to first-line medication treatment. Diagnosis and treatment, research, and education are the major goals of the Center. It has three major objectives:

1. Provide a 4th Level Comprehensive Epilepsy Center (the highest level of service as defined by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers) with focused efforts on research, teaching and state-of-the-art medical and surgical treatment of epilepsy and seizure disorders for Louisiana residents.
2. Provide epilepsy education for medical care providers, students, and residents to improve the quality of care offered to persons suffering from epilepsy, and the quality of life of epilepsy patients and caregivers.
3. Encourage academic and clinical research through industry-sponsored trials, investigator-initiated studies, and collaborative research relationships in neuroscience, pharmacotherapy, surgery, neuroimaging, and neuropsychology.

2. Activities

The LSUHSC Epilepsy Center is a multi-disciplinary, comprehensive center that provides state-of-the-art clinical care, research and outreach to children and adults with epilepsy. Center activities since its last authorization include, but are not limited to, the following.

Pediatrics:

- Developed a procedure for EEG lead placement using a ROSA® robotic device which allows leads to be placed into brain tissue in a minimally invasive manner, preventing the need for large surgical incisions, craniotomy (opening the skull), and significant post-operative recovery.
- Created a monthly Epilepsy Surgery Conference, allowing in-person collaboration among epileptologists, neurosurgeons, neurodiagnostic technologists, epilepsy nurses, neuroradiologists, and neuropsychologists.
- Expanded the Children's Hospital Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, increasing capacity to four inpatient beds for better access to this service. Also increased the number of mobile EEG acquisition computers to provide EEG monitoring to other patients within the ICUs or inpatient floors.
- Established a new Onset Seizure Clinic to help provide rapid evaluation for patients who have experienced their first seizure. This service has become very popular with community pediatricians and emergency room providers.

Adults:

- The Neurology SOMET Clinic is a Telemedicine clinic initiated through the University Medical Center New Orleans (UMCNO) to serve persons in prisons, jails and correctional facilities with epilepsy and other neurological disorders. The clinic enhances patient and staff safety and decreases costs to UMCNO and the Department of Corrections. Offenders initially seen in the hospital can be followed through the Telemedicine Clinic and only need to be transported to UMCNO for procedures such as EEGs and MRIs.
- Opened the UMCNO/LSUHSC Epilepsy Monitoring Unit with two rooms and an EEG lab dedicated to long-term, inpatient monitoring.

LSUHSC Epilepsy Fellowship: Adult and Pediatric Program:

- Received approval for a new Epilepsy Fellowship, the only one in the state. This one-year fellowship encompasses experiences in the outpatient epilepsy clinic, EEG reading, pediatric and adult epilepsy monitoring units, ICU monitoring, and surgical evaluation of patients. The first fellow began the program in July 2019.

3. Resources and Administration

Within the Center, the Director is ultimately responsible for the day-to-day operations. There are seven core directors responsible for the clinical and research goals of their disciplines. The core directors guide the clinical and research achievements in their core area. Research personnel, fellows, residents and students also work to support initiatives of the Center, which has various outpatient clinics, labs, inpatient monitoring and surgery facilities, and research facilities located throughout the New Orleans area (including UMCNO, Children's Hospital in New Orleans, Touro Imaging Center, and other sites).

4. Budget

The major source of revenue for the Center is from contracts with the University Medical Center, Children's Hospital in New Orleans, and Touro Infirmary. The Department of Neurology annually provides an additional \$68,000 in support to the Center. Revenue derived from the sources noted will adequately support Center operations.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Since inception, the Epilepsy Center has provided comprehensive epilepsy treatment as well as enhanced access to epilepsy education for patients and physicians throughout the state, but particularly in the greater New Orleans area. It is the only tertiary care center for epilepsy in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. The Center provides quality patient care, but it also provides students, residents and fellows with opportunities to experience a multi-disciplinary approach to epilepsy medicine.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior staff recommend that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommend continued authorization of the LSUHSC Epilepsy Center at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans for a period of five years. A progress report and request for reauthorization shall be due by July 1, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM III B 1
ROUTINE ACADEMIC REQUESTS
Staff Approvals

| Institution | Request |
|--------------------|--|
| BRCC | Request to terminate the AAS/Automotive Technology (CIP 47.0604) and AAS/Diesel Heavy Truck Technology (CIP 47.0613) as planned, to be incorporated into the new AAS/Maintenance and Repair Technology approved by BoR in Sept. 2019. <u>Approved</u> |
| GSU | Request to offer the BGS/General Studies (concentrations in Gender/Race & Intersectionality and in Juvenile Behavioral Studies) 100% online. <u>Approved</u> |
| LSU A&M | Request to terminate the PBC/Library Science (CIP 25.0301) due to zero enrollment since program approval in 2017. Campus intends to develop an undergraduate certificate program instead. <u>Approved.</u> |
| Nicholls | Request to offer the existing Associate of General Studies through 100% online delivery as an option to students. <u>Approved.</u> |
| Southeastern | Request to change the name of the Center for Nursing Research and Practice, to the Center for Collaborative Nursing Research. <u>Approved.</u> |
| ULM | Request to terminate the existing <u>PBC/Unmanned Aircraft Systems Management</u> (CIP 49.0199) due to low enrollment. The university has developed an Undergraduate Certificate which, if approved, will be more easily accessible to current students. <u>Approved.</u> |
| ULM | Request to offer the BA/Political Science (CIP 45.1000) 100% online as a delivery option. <u>Approved.</u> |
| ULL | Request to offer the MS/Accounting (CIP 52.0301) 100% online as a delivery option to facilitate access for working adults. <u>Approved.</u> |

AGENDA ITEM III B 2

PROGRESS REPORTS for CONDITIONALLY APPROVED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS/UNITS

| Initial Approval | Program | Staff Analysis | Staff Recommendation for Board Action |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| 02.2015 | Baton Rouge CC AS Computer Science CIP 11.0701 Implemented Fall 2016. Current progress report received 7.9.2019. | Program has shown strong progress in enrollment and graduation since implementation with 15 graduates reported for this past year and 254 declared majors in Spring 2019. | Receive and accept the progress report. NO FURTHER REPORTING REQUIRED. |
| 02.2010 | Bossier Parish CC AAS Construction Technology & Management CIP 15.1001 Current progress report received 7.1.2019. | Program enrollment numbers remain steady, but graduation numbers have not increased significantly since program implementation with 2, 0, 5, and 7 graduates in each of the past four years. Scholarship funds have been established, and efforts are underway toward a 2+2 agreement with ULM. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report demonstrating stronger enrollment and completion is due 7.1.2021 or program will be terminated. |
| 10.2015 | Fletcher TCC AAS Business Administration CIP 52.0101 Implemented Fall 2016. Current progress report received 6.10.2019. | Program reported 23 total graduates this past year for its second graduating class. Increased demand for online courses has resulted in program now being available 100% online with additional adjunct faculty supporting course demand. The program will submit a self-study for ACBSP accreditation this summer. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is due 7.1.2021. |
| 05.2018 | Fletcher TCC AAS Medical Laboratory Technician CIP 51.1004 Implemented Summer 2019. Current progress report received 6.3.2019. | The new program received SACSCOC approval in June 2018, and a program director was hired in January 2019. The first courses are being offered this summer, and 8 students in those courses have declared the MLT major. The department has formed a program advisory group and hired an additional adjunct faculty member. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is due 7.1.2020. |
| 01.2018 | LA Tech GC Cyber Technology CIP 11.9999 Program has not yet been implemented. Current progress report received 5.31.2019. | Due to a change in ownership of key industry partner CSRA, program implementation has been delayed indefinitely. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report on program implementation, including any curricular changes is due July 1, 2021, or approval will be revoked and a new program proposal must be submitted. |
| 05.2018 | Louisiana Delta CC AAS Criminal Justice CIP 43.0104 Implemented Fall 2018. Current progress report received 5.27.2019. | The new program had 59 students enrolled for this past year and expects the first graduates by 2020. Recruitment efforts included a Criminal Justice Fair held this past March, which received positive feedback from the 10 law enforcement agencies that participated. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is due 7.1.2020. |
| 08.2014 | McNeese State U BS Health Systems Management CIP 51.2211 Implemented Fall 2015. Current progress report received 5.28.2019. | The program's first 8 graduates completed the program last year, and 4 more graduated this year. McNeese anticipates continued growth in enrollment and expects 24 graduates by Spring 2020. The program shares faculty with Southeastern but given increases in enrollment, additional faculty may be needed. Most of the program's required courses are offered online. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is due 7.1.2020. |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|---|
| 10.2012 | McNeese State U Educational Specialist (EdS), Educational Leadership CIP 38.0101 Implemented Fall 2016. Current progress report received 12.21.2018. | Program was marked for low completer termination in 2011, then reinstated in 2012 with implementation in January 2013. Program has not demonstrated evidence of growth with no new students this past year, and just 2 predicted for the coming year and only 2 graduates per year anticipated. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report demonstrating stronger enrollment and completion is due 7.1.2021 or program will be terminated. |
| 10.2013/ 06.2017 | River Parishes CC AAS Industrial Maintenance Technology CIP 38.0101 Implemented at SCLTC 2014, then moved to RPCC for Fall 2017. Current progress report received 4.5.2019. | Program was moved from SCLTC to RPCC in summer 2017 and is now part of the Dow Chemical apprenticeship program in place at RPCC. The program had 10 graduates this past year, and 12 are expected next year. The program continues to grow despite the transition and growth is expected to continue. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is due 7.1.2020. |
| 06.2014 | South Louisiana CC AAS Application Software Development CIP 11.0201 Implemented Fall 2014. Current progress report received 6.4.2019; supplemental information received 7.17.2019. | Program enrollment continues to grow each year along with the number of graduates. Eleven graduates were reported for the most recent academic year with 15 expected next year. Plans are in place to expand the program to train employees at local company CGI. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is due 7.1.2020. |
| 09.2017 | UL Monroe BS Unmanned Aircraft Systems Management CIP 49.0101 Implemented Fall 2018. Current progress report received 5.30.2019. | Students first enrolled in Fall 2018, and the first graduates are expected next year. Anticipated Fall 2019 enrollment is 32, some of whom transferred from the terminated aviation program. As part of program adjustments, the existing PBC will be terminated and ULM plans to develop an undergraduate ASM certificate to better serve current students. Faculty in the program are actively securing practice opportunities for students and UAS donations. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is due 7.1.2020. |
| 09.2015 | UNO MEd Higher Education Administration CIP 13.0406 Implemented Summer 2016. Current progress report received 6.17.2019. | The first 5 graduates completed the program in 2018, with 8 more this year, and 9 expected next year. New enrollment has remained steady at 15-17 new students per year, which is expected to continue. All program graduates so far are employed in Higher Education, with one joining UNO's Ph.D. program. The program coordinator is actively pursuing internships for the program and additional adjunct instructors. | Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is due 7.1.2020. |

AGENDA ITEM III B 3
LETTERS of INTENT/PROPOSALS in the QUEUE
Submitted to BoR by Management Boards

| REQUEST | CAMPUS | PROGRAM | REC'D | STATUS |
|--------------------------|------------|---|----------|--|
| Letters of Intent | SLU | BS – Integrated Science & Technology | 08.23.18 | 8.30.18 - circulated to CAOs for input; responses due 9.27.18; 1.3.2019 - sent CAO and staff concerns to campus, awaiting response; 7.31.19 Campus indicated intention to submit responses in time for September agenda, or item will be removed from the queue, and a new version of the LoI must be submitted for future consideration; nothing received as of 08.15.19. |
| | LSU | BS/Learning Exp Design & Innovation | 06.01.19 | 8.19 – Sent to CAOs for review after initial staff review. |
| | LSUA | BS/Marketing | 06.07.19 | 7.19 – Sent to CAOs for review; responses received by 8.2. Staff (& CAOs) are concerned about breaking two more programs out of the current BADM degree before the campus achieves mandatory AACSB accreditation: preliminary discussion with the campus by phone. |
| | LSUA | BS/Management | 06.07.19 | |
| | LSU | MS/Financial Economics | 06.07.19 | 7.19 – Sent to CAOs for review; responses received by 8.2; under staff review. |
| | LSU HSC-NO | MS/Epidemiology | 06.10.19 | 7.19 – Sent to CAOs for review; responses received by 8.2; under staff review. |
| | SLU | MS/Computer Networking & Administration | 07.02.19 | Under initial staff review. |
| Proposals | NWLTC | AAS – Health Information Technology | 11.20.18 | 01.31.19 – requested proposal amendment addressing accreditation requirements for curriculum and faculty, program rigor; 7.19.19 – Proposal withdrawn due to inactivity and continued concerns. New proposal must be submitted for future consideration. |
| | LSU | PhD – Industrial Engineering | 04.29.19 | 7.25 – Campus submitted list of potential external reviewers; 8.8 – external reviewer agreed to conduct review, now working with staff. |
| | NSU | UC – Business Analytics (52.1301) | 07.02.19 | Proposal rcvd; under staff review. |
| | NSU | UC – Leadership Studies (52.0213) | 07.02.19 | Proposal rcvd; staff has questions about the proposed curriculum. |
| | NSU | UC – Strategic Communication (09.9999) | 07.02.19 | Proposal rcvd; under staff review. |
| | BPCC | AAS – Culinary Arts (12.0503) | 06.12.19 | Proposal rcvd; under staff review. |
| | BPCC | AAS – Fire Science (43.0202) | 06.12.19 | Proposal rcvd; under staff review. |

AGENDA ITEM IV A 1

LETTER of INTENT

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE BACHELOR of FINE ARTS in FILM & TELEVISION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU) requests Board of Regents approval of a Letter of Intent (LoI) to create a proposal for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film & Television. The LoI was approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors in March 2019 and forwarded to the Board of Regents for consideration. The LoI was then circulated to Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) statewide for review and comment.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description and Need

The BFA is the recognized professional degree program in the arts allowing specialization and enhanced content-specific engagement in the program's field. Currently, students in the College of Music & Dramatic Arts who wish to pursue studies in the area of Film & Television must do so within the BA in Theatre as a concentration. The proposed standalone degree will provide a focused program for students who wish to pursue a career as storytellers in the digital entertainment, especially within Louisiana's growing film & television industry. The program will serve as a compliment to the recently implemented College of Human & Social Sciences BA in Screen Arts, and will work with related programs and faculty in theanship School of Mass Communication, the College of Business, and the College of Art & Design's MS Digital Media Arts and Entertainment program providing a comprehensive breadth of film & digital media education serving students and employers. Students in the BFA will complete several courses in film and video production as well as supportive theatre courses and will be prepared for the field through co-curricular experiences such as participation in the student film festival "Take" and a department feature film completed as a capstone project. Graduates will be prepared for employment in directing, production, writing, editing, and a number of other support positions in the industry.

The state's LouisianaEntertainment.gov reports that more than 400 motion pictures as well as numerous television series and documentaries have been filmed in Louisiana in the past decade, including several in Baton Rouge and on LSU's campus. Tax incentives supported by Governor Edwards and the Louisiana Legislature support the long-term sustainability and growth of the film industry in the state with 10 major motion pictures scheduled for filming in 2019. Strong workforce development efforts in the field including graduates from an art-focused professional degree in film & television will help ensure that Louisiana remains an attractive destination for film production business.

2. Students

The Film & Television concentration in the BA Theatre program has showed continued growth since it was established in 2013 with 55 students enrolled in the concentration this past year. Based on increasing interest in the concentration, positive responses during recruitment events, and industry growth, LSU anticipates that many of the students in the BA concentration will be interested in switching to the professionally focused BFA and that the program would attract additional students as the only standalone degree of its type at a Louisiana public institution. Anticipated enrollment for year one is 30 students with a goal to grow to 70 students by year three.

3. Faculty, Resources & Budget

Resources, facilities, and faculty that support the film and television concentration will be sufficient to launch and support the program through the foreseeable future, with no additional costs outside those already included in the College's budget besides some additional marketing.

STAFF ANALYSIS

LSU has a wealth of resources in the area of film and television both in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences and in the College of Music & Dramatic Arts and is well equipped to support a BFA in Film & Television, a growing industry in Louisiana. The final proposal for the program must include detail on clear distinctions between the BA in Screen Arts and the proposed program, and more detail on intended connections and interactions with other related programs on campus. The proposal should also include advising efforts that ensure students understand their options, and evidence that employers will also understand the distinctions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommend that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommend approval of the Letter of Intent to develop a full proposal for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film & Television at Louisiana State University and A&M College.

AGENDA ITEM IV A 2
LETTER of INTENT
SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) requests Board of Regents approval of a Letter of Intent (LoI) to create a proposal for a MS in Population Health Management. The LoI was approved by the UL Board of Supervisors in December 2018 and forwarded to the Board of Regents for consideration. The LoI was then circulated to Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) statewide for review and comment, and concerns were raised including potential similarity and unnecessary duplication with existing MPH programs in the state. SLU submitted a response addressing these concerns in June 2019.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description and Need

The field of population health management integrates clinical medicine and public health to address health system optimization, improving clinical outcomes, and lowering healthcare costs. The proposed program will provide students with knowledge and research skills needed to promote population health by supporting the work of health care practitioners to provide high quality and cost-effective care through public health systems, healthcare systems, and community wellness and disease prevention. Graduates of the program will be able to analyze social structures that influence health, develop approaches to improve health outcomes and develop effective practices that reduce health care costs. Changes in healthcare are leading to new and revised positions focused on patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness requiring the skillset provided by this degree. The rapid growth in healthcare employment projected by the Louisiana Workforce Commission and US Department of Labor support the addition of population health professionals.

The focus of the 33-credit hour program is on the delivery of services and interventions within the health care system, and 12 new courses in population health are being developed, many of which will be taught by existing SLU faculty with expertise in related fields. All courses will be delivered 100% online, with a 3-day mandatory immersive in-person orientation at the beginning of the program plus an internship experience. While SLU's relationships with area healthcare providers will ensure a variety of internship experiences for local students, the online nature of the program will allow students from outside the region to work with SLU faculty in developing and securing internships where they live, making the program appealing to students throughout the State and the country.

2. Students

SLU anticipates graduating approximately 10-20 students per year from the program after full implementation. These estimates were based on a review of existing and projected workforce needs, feedback from prospective employers, and an analysis of enrollment trends in SLU's undergraduate healthcare programs. Current students from SLU's existing undergraduate healthcare programs, such as the BS in Health Education and Promotion and the BS in Health Systems Management, have expressed strong interest in the intended program, and graduates from these programs along with other working professionals in health care are expected to be the primary sources for enrollment. The program is designed as a full-time program, particularly with the flexibility of coursework being offered 100% online but may also be completed part-time in two years for working professionals who cannot attend full time.

3. Faculty, Resources & Budget

The new program would require one new full-time faculty member with a salary of \$65K and a \$2500 annual operating budget for office supplies and equipment. Anticipated costs will be covered by tuition and fees generated by the program, as well as potential reallocation of existing institutional resources committed by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. SLU's current wealth of faculty with related expertise in areas

such as health systems management, health education, and public health will support the program through student advising, administration, and by teaching existing and new population health management courses.

STAFF ANALYSIS

SLU's existing faculty, undergraduate healthcare programs, and relationships with medical providers in the region make it well suited to offer a graduate level program in the rapidly growing field of population health management. The program proposal must ensure distinction of the program from public health programs in the state, as well as provide additional clarity and job definitions that distinguish between the two areas. The region and the State would benefit from having graduates in population health who are focused on the optimizing healthcare systems, improving clinical outcomes, and lowering healthcare costs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommend that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommend approval of the Letter of Intent to develop a full proposal for a Master of Science in Population Health at Southeastern Louisiana University.

AGENDA ITEM IV A3
LETTER of INTENT
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN JUSTICE STUDIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University of New Orleans requests Board of Regents approval of a Letter of Intent (LoI) to develop a proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Justice Studies. The LoI was approved by the UL Board of Supervisors in June 2018 and forwarded to the Board of Regents for consideration. After the LoI was circulated to Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) statewide for review and comment, it was returned to campus for several revisions. BoR staff met with campus representatives to discuss concerns and requested that a revised LoI be written; it was received in April 2019 and has been reviewed for Board consideration.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description and Need

UNO plans to develop a PhD in Justice Studies for individuals interested in the interdisciplinary study of the various aspects of justice. The program will leverage faculty expertise in a variety of departments across the university, including urban planning, political science, philosophy, and education. Adding a PhD program to UNO's social science offerings will aid in building the strength of existing programs through the recruitment of students and faculty, but it will also serve academia and the greater community through the deeper study of justice issues on a local and national front. The program is intended to allow students to work with faculty to tailor a degree path suited to specific areas of interest in the broader issues of justice. Initial concentrations will include Social Justice, Criminal Justice, Educational Justice, and Environmental Justice. Each student's curriculum will include three research methods and one theory course in justice studies, plus a tailored set of 33 hours in courses developed with an advisor based on the student's focus, and 12 hours of dissertation research. Students who enter the program with a related Master's degree may have a portion of course requirements waived.

2. Students

UNO anticipates attracting current or recent graduates from its various social science related undergraduate and master's programs within the first few years and expects broader regional and national interest from community leaders and others interested in a deeper understanding of social justice as program marketing and reputation grow over time. UNO estimates enrollment to start with 5-10 students per year through implementation, with a typical incoming class of 10-15 students per year by year five.

3. Faculty, Resources & Budget

For at least the first five years of the program, existing faculty from participating departments will provide student advising and teach new courses developed for the program along with a variety of existing graduate courses. College, department, and graduate school funds will be allocated to fund 2-3 graduate assistantships per year. The degree will be housed in the College of Liberal Arts, Education and Human Development. It will be administered through the academic department of whomever serves as the current director, and administrative support will be provided by that department. Funding support, including course release funding for the director, will be allocated by the College.

STAFF ANALYSIS

UNO is uniquely positioned to offer the intended innovative interdisciplinary program at the graduate level because of its location in New Orleans where the region's history of social justice issues and student/faculty engagement in the community will provide research opportunities and perspective on urban social justice issues. Faculty in the College of Liberal Arts, Education and Human Development have demonstrated commitment to the program and share a strong collaborative culture that will help ensure success for the program's unique focus as it evolves. However, staff have concerns about the intended curriculum and

administrative structure. The curriculum, as described, lacks the number of units typically required for a doctoral program, including similar interdisciplinary programs at other institutions in the country, and it lists only one required Justice Studies, non-research method-based course. The current design brings into question what common knowledge or perspective its graduates will share without a shared foundation or core in either topic or discipline. Staff are also concerned with the administrative oversight plan for the program. Because the home department of the director will administer the program, including staff support, the program and its students may experience inconsistent administration and advising during transitions. The full program proposal must include:

- A robust and clear common core and curriculum design with credit hour requirements consistent with typical PhD programs in related areas (or similar doctoral programs related to justice studies; and
- A strong, clear plan for administering the program that includes long-term student advising and staff support through directorship transitions and department financial and leadership changes.

As required in policy, after a preliminary review by staff, the full proposal will be forwarded to an external reviewer who is an expert in the field so that it may be revised, if needed, before it is brought to the Regents with a staff recommendation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommend that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommend approval of the Letter of Intent to develop a full proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Justice Studies at the University of New Orleans.

AGENDA ITEM IV B 1
PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM
DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE of APPLIED SCIENCE in CLOUD COMPUTING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Delgado Community College requests Board of Regents' approval to offer an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Cloud Computing. The program proposal was approved by the Board of Supervisors of the LCTCS at its June 2019 meeting.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description & Need

Delgado's proposed AAS in Cloud Computing was designed in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to address the growing number of tech employers throughout Louisiana and the demand for employees with cloud computing skills. The program will be part of a System-wide initiative to create a statewide common Associate degree. Delgado took the initiative in presenting the proposal for three reasons: nine of the 13 courses in the major are already part of the college's course offerings; Delgado has a strong, existing relationship with DXC Technology; and several instructors are currently preparing to become Certified Amazon Web Services Cloud Architecture Instructors to be able to teach the new courses this Fall. The 60-credit curriculum will include 13 courses in the major, 5 in the General Education core, and 2 approved elective courses in programming. The major addresses such topics as: database applications, logic and design, web programming, network security, virtual infrastructure, agile project management, information storage and management, and network and Linux system administration. The degree will include a 9-credit CTC in Cloud Computing that prepares the student to take the *AWS Cloud Practitioner* examination for an industry-based certification.

"Cloud Computing" is a model for enabling convenient, on-demand access to a shared pool of configurable computer resources – networks, servers, storage, applications, and services that can be rapidly provided with minimal management effort or service provider interaction. It is an emerging area of interest within the Information Technology industry for which little has been offered in terms of comprehensive curricula, educational resources, and technician training programs leading to industry certification. While several existing programs (in computer science, computer engineering, computer information technology, etc) address components of the skill sets required for cloud computing, the proposed program is designed to align directly with competencies identified by AWS and with the *AWS Educate* initiative to specifically prepare students for careers in the field. The program will build up the existing talent pipeline to meet current demand and to attract new business and industry to the state.

2. Students

Upon approval, the new degree program will be marketed as part of the College's core list of instructional programs. In addition, GNO Inc. has pledged support in marketing and recruitment efforts, primarily targeting students seeking a career change or specialization in cloud-based information storage and retrieval. Delgado expects an initial program enrollment of 28 new and continuing students based on regional and state-wide labor market projections and information from GNO Inc. Graduates should appear in year two (2020-21), starting with eight and increasing to about 15 per year when the program is in full operation to match demand.

3. Faculty, Resources & Administration

The proposed AAS will be housed in the Division of Business & Technology and should have no impact on the current administrative structure. Beyond the core of six full-time and two adjunct faculty, no new full-time faculty are anticipated to initiate and maintain the program. The majority of the courses are currently being taught, and the four new courses will be absorbed by the current cadre. Additional adjunct faculty may be added if the enrollment response exceeds expectations. With implementation, the division will seek program accreditation by the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE).

Currently 11 e-textbooks are listed in Delgado's catalog with *Cloud Computing* as the primary subject. The titles were acquired as part of the *Affordable Learning LOUISiana* (ALL) initiative with the goal of providing opensource or licensed e-texts for the four courses that will be created for the program.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Delgado is the first LCTCS college to prepare a proposed Associate of Applied Science in Cloud Computing program in collaboration with Amazon Web Services to support cloud learning for students and faculty, unlocking new opportunities in cloud computing across Louisiana (and worldwide). As part of the collaboration, AWS Educate is working with LCTCS faculty to integrate cloud content into their curricula so that students have the opportunity to learn cloud computing with state-of-the-art AWS tools. Throughout the coming year, it is expected that each of the 12 System colleges will develop and seek approval to implement the cutting-edge, market-based cloud program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommend that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend conditional approval of the Associate of Applied Science in Cloud Computing (CIP Code 11.0902) at Delgado Community College, to begin implementation in Fall/2019. A progress report shall be due by July 1, 2021.

The Senior Staff recommend that the Board of Regents authorize the Deputy or Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs to review and approve very similar AAS/Cloud Computing proposals from other LCTCS colleges as they are developed and submitted.

AGENDA ITEM IV B 2
PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM
DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN PARALEGAL STUDIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Delgado Community College (DCC) requests approval to establish an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Paralegal Studies (CIP Code 220302). The degree program was approved by the LCTCS Board of Supervisors in June 2019.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description & Need

The objective of the AAS in Paralegal Studies is to offer a course of study and degree that will prepare students with the skills necessary for a paralegal career. Students who complete this 60-hour workforce development program will enter the workforce with training that makes them highly competitive. The program aims to provide practical legal skills as well as a background in legal concepts so that graduates will immediately be able to obtain jobs in this rapidly growing profession. Paralegals are typically employed in law firms but are also eligible for careers in corporate legal departments, various government offices, and non-profit organizations.

Delgado's AAS in Paralegal Studies is being developed in response to an articulated need from the Greater New Orleans workforce. DCC conducted a survey of employers and potential employers of paralegals who indicated a rising need for skilled paralegals in the New Orleans area. Projections from the Louisiana Workforce Commission indicate approximately 30 current jobs available, with projections of over 100 vacancies in the next five years. DCC's program focuses on an expressed need for the area surrounding the College's six instructional locations. The addition of a paralegal program at DCC would help meet the immediate and long-range need in New Orleans.

At present, Nunez Community College and BRCC are the only public institutions in Louisiana offering an associate degree in paralegal studies.

2. Students

The AAS in Paralegal will serve the existing student population and will also attract new students to the College. The program is likely to appeal to traditional undergraduate students interested in a career as a paralegal, as well as those nontraditional and part-time students seeking a career change. Finally, the proposed degree may appeal to those students already working in the legal profession looking to gain an academic credential so that they may advance at their jobs. DCC anticipates 20 new students would enroll in the program's first year, with 18 continuing students enrolling. The program expects to see an average of 18 graduates by year five, which would well exceed Board of Regents' productivity/viability standards.

3. Faculty, Resources & Administration

No new full-time faculty are anticipated to initiate and maintain the proposed program. The core of full-time faculty, coupled with a pool of existing adjunct faculty will be able to teach courses, as many are courses which already exist. Based on future enrollment, additional adjunct faculty may be hired as necessary. One faculty member will be assigned to manage the program as part of their existing Department Chair/Program Coordinator duties. The college has adequate classrooms and office space to house the proposed program. No new facilities, equipment, or laboratories will be needed. While the

current library holdings are sufficient to initiate the program, regular acquisition of new law/legal materials occurs on a regular basis, and the collection is updated. The procurement of professional scholarly journals specifically designed for Paralegals is desired, at an estimated cost of approximately \$6000 over a four-year period.

Once the program is implemented, DCC will seek accreditation through the American Bar Association (ABA) and recognition with the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA).

The proposal indicates that the AAS in Paralegal Studies program will be comprised almost entirely of existing courses and faculty lines. New expenses required to implement the program include potential accreditation costs and acquisition of additional periodicals specifically designed for Paralegals.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Delgado Community College is requesting to offer a technical workforce program which has strong regional interest and fully supported by the college and the System. Enrollment and completion data, along with progression toward accreditation, will be monitored for an appropriate period of time as the program is implemented.

Accordingly, the staff tenders the following recommendation:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommend that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend conditional approval for the Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal Studies (CIP Code 220302) at Delgado Community College. By July 1, 2021, the institution will update the board on enrollment and completion numbers as well as on progress toward accreditation.

AGENDA ITEM IV B 3
PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE
UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES (2)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In February 2019 the Board of Regents approved the addition of a new upper level Undergraduate Certificate (UC) in Academic Affairs Policy 2.15, *Definitions of Undergraduate Degrees & Undergraduate/Graduate Certificates*. Designed as a focused, incremental, stackable credential, the UC can be linked to an existing degree program major as an additional focus area (concentration or minor), or it can be a stand-alone area of specialization to augment a student's educational background and/or to meet industry demand for upper level training. The certificate is comprised of at least 18 credits, of which at least half must be at the upper (junior/senior) level. The two proposed undergraduate certificates are the first for Northwestern.

The University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) requests Board of Regents' approval to offer a UC in Computer Programming and a UC in Unmanned Aircraft Systems Management. The Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System approved the new programs at its June 2019 meeting and submitted the proposals for BoR consideration.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. UC Computer Programming (CIP 11.0201): In response to the high demand for entry level programmers in the region, including at IBM, ULM has developed a 24-credit undergraduate certificate that consists of a combination of computer science and computer information systems. The goal of the program is to provide a fundamental understanding of software and database development, including Java, Oracle, and SQL. Its course requirements address topics on computer programming, data structures, project management, and database development. ULM anticipates that the program will grow to as many as 50 enrolled students by year 5, attracting current students from both within and outside computer related programs at ULM, graduates who wish to add computer programming skills, and veterans looking for specific training opportunities. The program will offer a fast-track path for those with some background in the field. All courses are currently offered on campus at ULM, though the campus intends to make the program fully available online in a few years for those who prefer that delivery mode. The Louisiana Workforce Commission job listings show that there are currently 220 programmer jobs available in the state, and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a 24% growth for employment of software developers. IBM in Monroe has indicated that it is currently growing its Application Development team and will need to hire a significant number of entry-level programmers.

2. UC Unmanned Aircraft Systems Management (CIP 49.0101): In 2013, Regents approved a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in Unmanned Aircraft Systems Management at ULM followed, in 2017, by the reconfiguration of the low-completer BS/Aviation into the BS/Unmanned Aircraft Systems Management. In response to student feedback and to build participation in the learning opportunity, ULM will replace the PBC with the proposed UC, which will better serve current and former students who wish to focus on the skills needed for this rapidly growing field. The FAA has recently released regulations and policies regarding the commercial use of Unmanned Aircraft (drones), which has led to an upsurge in business enterprises and employment in the field for use in agriculture and historical sites. There has also been an increased interest in the use of unmanned aircraft from ULM programs such as Atmospheric Sciences, Agribusiness, Construction Management, and Risk Management & Insurance. The proposed program will prepare students

for FAA certification and teach them to capture and interpret data related to UAS technology. All courses included in the proposed 18-credit certificate program are already offered by ULM and will not incur additional costs or require additional faculty, unless the program grows beyond the enrollment expectations of 25 by year five. ULM has built a significant inventory of UAS equipment through grants and private donations.

STAFF ANALYSIS

ULM's first two undergraduate certificate proposals are well suited to the institution, its students, and the needs of the region. Both proposed programs have strong, clear curricula that will meet specific needs of industry and both current and returning students interested in working in those fields.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommend that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommend conditional approval of the following Undergraduate Certificates at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, with progress reports due by July 1, 2021:

UC Computer Programming (CIP 11.0201)

UC Unmanned Aircraft Systems Management (CIP 49.0101)

AGENDA ITEM IV B 4
PROPOSED ACADEMIC PROGRAM
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Northwestern State University (NSU) requests Board of Regents' approval to offer a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems (MS CIS). The BoR approved the Letter of Intent in March 2018, and a draft proposal was favorably reviewed by Dr. Lee Freeman, Associate Professor of Information Systems Management at the University of Michigan – Dearborn. The final proposal was approved by the UL Board of Supervisors at its February 2019 meeting and submitted to the Regents for consideration. Staff worked with the campus on addressing concerns raised in the external review.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description and Need

The field of Computer Information Systems is the practical applications of computer technology and encompasses a variety of areas including those that are the focus of the proposed program: cyber-security, database administration and data mining, networking, programming, project management, and software applications. Students will gain in-depth knowledge in these areas, learn how they relate to the success of an organization, and how to implement system improvements. The 33-credit hour graduate program includes nine required courses and two electives, ensuring that all graduates have a strong common understanding of computer information systems, and the opportunity to further focus on their primary interest area. All students will complete a research project or thesis where they will apply research methods and designs to advance knowledge in the field. The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that three of the top ten largest areas of job growth through 2024 will be in computer systems related areas. Students who seek leadership positions, research opportunities, or career re-direction into computer systems will benefit from the proposed program and will help meet workforce demand.

While several institutions in the state offer graduate level study in Computer Systems or related programs, NSU's program will be unique in its breadth of topics studied within the computer information systems field and will be the only one offered 100% online. The program's asynchronous course model will allow students who are place bound to complete the degree on a schedule and from a location convenient for them. Because admission to the program requires specific content knowledge, some students may need to complete pre-requisite courses for enrollment eligibility. A careful assessment of previous coursework, particularly for those students who did not complete the NSU undergraduate program, will ensure students are not deterred from the program because of these requirements.

2. Students

NSU anticipates the three primary sources of enrollees to be recent graduates of its BS CIS program (41 graduates last year) and other related NSU programs, recent graduates of similar programs from other institutions especially those in Louisiana, and working professionals wishing to expand their skillset. During its initial implementation years, the program expects the primary pipeline of students to be NSU alum but plans to market the online program broadly to attract students less familiar with NSU and its programs. Anticipated enrollment for the first year is 28 with up to 40 new students per year enrolling in the program by year 4. The program is designed to be completed in two years for students enrolled in two courses per semester.

3. Faculty and Resources

Four current doctoral level full time faculty and three additional faculty members pursuing a doctorate have the necessary scope of expertise to launch the program. Two new faculty will be hired during the first two years of the program: one with software expertise in areas such as programming, database systems, and mobile application development, and the other with hardware expertise in areas such as cyber-security, information assurance, and networking. The new faculty will also contribute to undergraduate and graduate instruction along with existing faculty. Current library holdings and library budget, along with existing facilities are sufficient to meet program needs.

4. Administration and Budget

The program will be housed in the School of Business in the College of Business and Technology, which has been accredited by AACSB since 1999. The College is currently conducting a search for a Director of the School of Business, and the MS CIS program coordinator will report to the College Dean until the new Director is in place. NSU anticipates hiring two additional full-time faculty to support the program, one in each of the first two years of the program at a cost of \$252K per year with salary and benefits. The program also anticipates adding one graduate assistantship per year for the first four years of the program at \$12K per student per year and obtaining a decision support system to support the curriculum at \$8K per year. Faculty are all encouraged to apply for School of Business endowed professorships to support research and travel. Tuition and fees are expected to cover expenses of the program by year four based on total enrollment projections of 75 by year four and current tuition and fee rates.

STAFF ANALYSIS

NSU's proposed program received strong support from the external reviewer based on the strength of the existing BS CIS and on the quality of the proposed curriculum. Computer information systems and related fields provide 5-star jobs, and the proposed graduate program will support advancement in those careers for graduates in the NSU region, as well as statewide and nationally. Strong marketing for the program will be critical to recruiting students outside the NSU alum pool, and staff are confident that the proposed NSU online program has the potential to grow and become self-supporting as the program's reputation grows. Faculty commitment to ensuring both a strong foundation in the principals of computer information systems along with instruction in current technology within the curriculum will ensure graduates are well positioned for strong careers in the field.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommend that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee recommend conditional approval of the proposed Master of Science in Computer Information Systems (CIP 11.0401) at Northwestern State University, with a progress report due on July 1, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM IV B 5
PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY (NSU)
POST MASTER'S CERTIFICATE (PMC) in ADULT-GERONTOLOGICAL
ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER (AGACNP)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NSU requests BoR approval to offer a Post-Master's Certificate in Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (PMC/AGACNP) for registered nurses holding a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). The proposal was approved by the University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors in June 2019 and forwarded for Regents' consideration.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Description & Need

NSU's MSN program presently includes the six concentrations for Nurse Practitioners (NPs): Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP, Adult Gerontology Primary Care NP, Family NP, Primary Care Pediatric NP, Psychiatric Mental Health NP across the Lifespan, and Women's Health NP. To practice as an adult-gerontological acute care nurse practitioner in Louisiana, an RN must obtain a minimum MSN with a concentration in adult-gerontology acute care. The purpose of the proposed PMC is to provide didactic and clinical education necessary for RNs or APRNs who already possess a graduate degree in nursing, in a concentration other than adult-gerontology acute care, to meet the requirements to become an AGACNP. The structure of the proposed PMC will vary depending upon coursework already completed during the student's previous graduate work. Based on an individual transcript review and gap analysis against the AGACNP requirements, it is anticipated that practicing NPs could earn the proposed PMC in three to four semesters. To maximize flexibility, most of the courses will be available online, and clinical courses will be hybrid, with some in-class meetings and some online delivery. Students who successfully complete the proposed post-graduate certificate may apply to take a national certification exam. Upon passing the exam, the nurse may apply for advanced practice registered nurse license (APRN) with the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) and practice in the state as an AGACNP.

The need for advanced practice registered nurses who possess the specialized knowledge and skills to provide advanced nursing care to adult, older adult and elderly patients with acute and critical conditions is growing rapidly and is expected to continue to increase due to the aging population. As people live longer with chronic health conditions such as coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cancer, chronic kidney disease, etc., the need for quality care will continue to escalate. There is a current shortage of adult-gerontological acute care nurse practitioners nationally because few programs exist, and presently there are no universities in state who offer a post-graduate AGACNP certificate.

2. Students

Northwestern has a strong masters-level nursing program averaging 68 graduates per year. Student interest in the proposed post-graduate certificate will be from registered nurses who hold a graduate nursing degree. According to the LSBN, of the 3,561 licensed NPs in Louisiana in 2017, only 135 worked in gerontological acute care, leaving a large number of NPs who would need post-graduate certificate options if they ever choose to enter that field of practice. The University anticipates an enrollment of five to ten students per year which, in itself, would not sustain an independent program, but the courses in the proposed PMC are presently available within an existing concentration of the MSN.

3. Faculty, Resources & Accreditation

AGACNP certification has been offered as a concentration within the MSN for several years at NSU, successfully preparing NPs who provide primary care throughout Louisiana. Instructional needs for this program will be met with existing resources, as all courses are currently being taught. Likewise, there should be no additional implementation costs to provide this service to practicing nurses.

Nursing programs at NSU are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) through 2023. The University has already sought and received approval from the LSBN to offer the post-graduate certificate program. Upon BoR approval, NSU will apply to CCNE to extend accreditation to the new PMC.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The PMC/AGACNP is an appropriate academic offering developed in response to ongoing needs for advance practice nurses to provide health care. NSU has experience with delivery of adult-gerontological acute care nurse practitioner instruction within the MSN. The addition of a PMC to the university's curriculum inventory would mostly serve to formalize an academic credential to recognize the additional area of NP certification. The program will be delivered as a hybrid, with didactic classes available online.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommend that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend conditional approval of the Post Master's Certificate (PMC) in Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (CIP 51.3821) at Northwestern State University, with a progress report due July 1, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM V

PROGRAM PROPOSAL APPROVAL PROCESS

PILOT LETTER of INTENT WAIVER

STAFF SUMMARY

One of the primary constitutional responsibilities of the Board of Regents is the review and approval of new programs as part of managing the state's academic program inventory. Common to most public systems throughout the country is a two-step program approval process, which includes some form of notification that a campus wishes to develop a new program followed by a fully developed proposal and board or administrative approval. Wide variations range from routine approval to several layers of approval after evaluation by internal and external experts, sequential to simultaneous review, and years of extensive research and planning. The current process for Louisiana entails two rounds of campus, system, management board, Regents' staff and BoR review and approval as a new program idea progresses through the Letter of Intent (LOI) and Proposal processes in AA Policies 2.04 and 2.05. In some cases, the two-step process is invaluable as a campus works through developing an idea into a quality program that addresses state and workforce need, can be accredited, and recognizes and provides for the necessary faculty and student support, equipment and resources. Likewise, on some occasions the LOI itself is so complete it would be appropriate to recommend immediate approval for implementation.

During the last decade of strained resources and cuts to higher education funding, difficult decisions were made as campuses eliminated or consolidated low enrollment and less successful academic programs and the BoR used an abundance of caution in approving new programs. As a result, the LOI process has become more time and labor intensive as Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) and BoR staff evaluate them more deeply and critically for considerations indicating options for efficiency and effectiveness in offering the program. The LOI step is intended to be a brief notice of a campus' idea (or intention) to develop a proposal, providing an opportunity for other campuses, staff, and boards to identify issues with or concerns about the program idea. With the gradual increase in scrutiny of the LOI, time is spent identifying and addressing details better suited to a fully developed proposal through a back-and-forth process between campuses, CAOs, systems, and Regents' staff. As a result, the current two-step formal approval process has become, in many instances, duplicative and unnecessarily time consuming.

PILOT LOI WAIVER CONCEPT

After a discussion with System CAOs in May, Regents' staff have been evaluating the process to consider policy revisions that would support a more efficient program approval process. The goal is to support innovation by allowing campuses to be nimble and responsive to the demands of industry and academia while ensuring a thorough and effective new degree program proposal and evaluation process. To test and refine options, Staff recommend a pilot process for new program development that allows campuses to request a waiver of the LOI and move straight to the full proposal.

- Pilot program ideas must require few (or no) new resources, address a clear and present need, and fit well within the institution's current program offerings.
- Programs that meet these criteria would submit a LOI waiver justification and a brief but comprehensive summary of the intended program through their System CAO, which BoR will circulate to CAOs statewide for review and comment. BoR will return a brief summary of feedback to be addressed in the proposal.
- Staff will develop a revised, more robust program proposal form that will require substantial detail, justification, and verification of expected campus-level reviews. The pilot proposal form could be developed and circulated to CAOs in September.

- Pilot program proposals would follow the procedures and requirements of AA 2.05 for Regents review and approval.
- Over the next 8 to 12 months, staff will communicate with System and campus CAOs, revising the form and/or process as needed, with the goal of reporting to the Regents in 2020 with recommendations on possible policy revisions, program reviews, and a long-term academic planning process.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommend that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend approval for staff to develop and implement a pilot Letter of Intent Waiver process for new academic degree program development.