

## **Faculty Senate Report**

February 13, 2009

I am writing to update to the Longwood Faculty Senate regarding the new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. I believe it is important to assure a deeper level of information is provided for the Longwood Faculty than needs to be shared with the public. From my experience in other universities, I assume that the Faculty Senate is the body to whom such information should flow.

As you have probably seen in the press release, the new BSN program was approved last month by both SCHEV (January 6) and the Virginia Board of Nursing (January 27). These approvals, both of which required many months of work, enabled us to announce the program and accept applications for the first cohort of students.

Equally as important was the inclusion of the BSN program in the Governor's budget. Both President Cormier and Provost McWee had promised the LU Faculty that the new program would begin only if new funds were obtained. We all understood that the financial challenges are many, and that a new program of this size and cost could not be launched fairly without adequate new funds. The operating costs for the BSN program will be covered by the new funds from the Governor's budget, augmented by the remaining funds in the planning grant from the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission. Both of these fund sources are specific to the BSN program and cannot be tapped for other LU programs.

The BSN program will begin in the fall semester of this year, 2009.

Within hours of posting the announcement on the webpages and in the newspaper, we received our first applications. Because of the significant backlog of qualified applicants desiring entrance to a BSN program, we do not expect any difficulty in filling the program quota of 35 students, even with the lateness of the application and acceptance process. The BSN programs in other state universities routinely turn away hundreds of applicants. Several of these institutions with BSN programs (JMU, VCU, ODU) are including information about Longwood's new program in the notification letters to qualified applicants whom their programs cannot accommodate.

The BSN program will be housed in a new Nursing Department in the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences. Now that it is clear the program will launch, we are recruiting the Department Chair/Program Director. A strong Search Committee\*\* is in place and has selected qualified candidates for a first round of interviews. Those interviews are scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Each candidate will be giving a short presentation; any interested faculty members are welcome to attend. Additionally, key faculty from other departments impacted by the new program are included in the candidate interviews.

Curricula for BSN programs are tightly controlled by the Virginia Board of Nursing and by the professional accrediting agencies. Our curriculum meets all the recommendations outlined in *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* created by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), and was reviewed very positively by the Virginia Board of Nursing. Because of the structure of the BSN curriculum, the majority of courses in the first two years (2009/2010 and 2010/2011) will

be sciences and general education courses. An additional faculty position has been added in Biology, and recruitment within that department is underway.

The recruitment of specialized nursing faculty will begin after the selection of a Department Chair and will be sequenced, with the full component of nine (9) nursing faculty FTE in place by 2012/2013. At this time, Kristin Windon and I represent the BSN program. Ms. Windon is on campus full-time and can be reached at [windonkg@longwood.edu](mailto:windonkg@longwood.edu), or by phone at X 2936.

With the collaboration of Dr. Barber and Mark Lenker of the Longwood library, library resources for the new BSN program have been defined, and plans and budget for necessary acquisitions have been created.

The inclusion of simulated clinical experiences will be integral to our nursing curriculum. The new Clinical Simulation Learning Center and the Nursing Department's administrative and faculty space will be located in the Stevens Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Renovation of departmental space and faculty offices has begun. We are seeking private, philanthropic funds for the creation of the Clinical Simulation Learning Center. Until the Stevens space can be completed, the BSN program office is temporarily located in Ruffner.

I want to thank the Faculty Senate for its support of this new program. I will be pleased to provide information at any point, and I look forward to the continued collaboration with the Longwood faculty. My contract as the Project Director/Program Director for this program will end in June of this year, when the new Department Chair is appointed.

Jean S-J

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\*\* Special thanks are due the Search Committee members, who have been generous with their time and their knowledge: **David Buckalew** (Biology); **Ed Kinman** (Biology); **Sharon Menegoni** (Athletic Training); **Pam Evans** (Student Health and Wellness), and **Lisa Mooney** (HR).

BSN program information is available at <http://www.longwood.edu/nursing>.