

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Associate Degree in Nursing

CHAIRPERSON: Robin Lockhart		
MEETING DATE: Thurs, Oct. 30, 2014	MEETING TIME: 12:00 pm	MEETING PLACE: Dickey's BBQ
RECORDER: Kathy Williamson		PREVIOUS MEETING: Fall 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT:		OTHERS PRESENT:	
Name, Title, Company	Name, Title, Company	Name, Title, Company	Name, Title, Company
Brownlow, Chad	RN, MSN, FNP-BC	Hillcrest Clinic	
Chandler, Melody	Director of Regional Simulation Center	North Central TX Healthcare Consortium (NCTHCC)	
Ward, Brandi	Director, Educational Center	Jackson County Memorial Hospital	
Laminack, Lisa	Assistant DON	NTSH	
Martinez, Linda	Psych Nurse Practitioner	NTSH	
Sanders, Shawna	RN	NTSH	
Ward, Brandi	Nurse Recruiter	JCMH	
Williamson, Kathy	BSN Coordinator	MSU	
Willie, Darrell	Substance Abuse Counselor	NTSH	
Willie, Lashun	RN, Nurse Manager	NTSH	
Yates, Hub	Manager of Ed. Training & Dev.	United Regional	
Zeigler, Andrew	RN, Nurse Manager	United Regional	
MEMBERS ABSENT:			
Akin, Pam	Interim Chief Nursing Office	Wilbarger General Hospital	
Anderle, Andrea	Nurse Educator	United Regional	
Cardenas, Fran	RN	NTSH	
Kalski, Lynn	Director of LVN Program	Vernon College	
Pruitt, Kelley	Med Surg Nurse Educator	United Regional	
Ross, Gina	Advance Nurse Practitioner	NTSH	
Whatley, Sam	RN	Integra Care Home Health	

AGENDA

Agenda Item	Action, Discussion, or Information	Responsibility
Election of Chair and Recorder	Action	Director of Nursing
Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting	Action	Chair
Old Business & New Business		
NCLEX-RN update		Chair
Clinical Hours VS Sim Lab		Chair
Hiring of Lab Coordinator		Chair
HESI Specialty Testing		Chair
Criminal Background Checks		Chair
Admission Criteria Increased		Chair
Program statistics: Graduates, majors, enrollment; list of graduates	See Handouts attached	Chair/VC faculty
Workplace competencies	Survey will be sent. Discussion from committee.	Membership
External learning experiences, employment, and placement opportunities	Clinicals every other week. Hiring students with DO.	Membership
Needs of students from special populations	More students seeking assistance. Must have proper evaluation.	Membership
Review goals and objectives	Approve new goals Handout	Chair/Membership
Program revisions, curriculum/course review	Handout THECB mandate of 60 semester hour curriculum for Associate Degrees Increase RNSG 1105 to 1205	Chair/Membership

Curriculum Decisions:	Approve 60 Semester hour Curriculum	Chair/Membership
BON Update		Director
Program Information	Moratorium of admitting re-entry or transfer students until NCLEX-RN pass rate increases. HESI exit exam requirements increased.	Director

MINUTES :

Key Points	Summary of Action, Discussion, Info/Responsibility and Plans for Follow-up and Reporting
Election of Chair and Recorder	Robin Lockhart was elected Chair of the Committee. Kathy Williamson was elected Recorder.
Approval of Minutes	A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting.
Old Business & Continuing Business:	
NCLEX-RN update	The VC pass rate last year on the NCLEX-RN licensure exam was 76% for first time test takers. Due to the change in the passing standard for the exam which was instituted in April 2014, a drop in the pass rates was expected locally, statewide and nationally. For the first time in many years, the Texas pass rate was less than the national pass rate on the exam. The 2014 final results will not be received until November and will be presented to the BON and approved at their January meeting. Any actions required of programs who fall below the 80% passing standard will be instituted at that time. According to our initial calculations, the pass rate this year will be below 80%. Discussed contributing factors, in addition to the passing standard change, that may contribute to the lower pass rates: turnover in faculty, faculty applicants without teaching experience, primary acute care clinical site changed access to clinical experiences (every other week clinicals rather than every week in the semester), had to place students in lab experiences in lieu of the clinical site and due to time constraints, lab experiences may not have been as effective, limited time available in SIMS lab, allowing re-entry/transfer students to enter the program who were at high risk for not passing the licensure exam, and limitations on clinical experience (no codes, reduced ER rotations, etc.).
Clinical Hours VS Simulation Lab	Discussed the need to improve the VC Simulation lab experiences and purchase scenarios. Due to MSU using the SIMS lab for all of their skills evaluation and United Regional's use of the SIMS lab, there is limited opportunity for additional SIMS experience. VC uses the SIMS lab for high fidelity simulations only.
Hiring of Lab Coordinator	Jennifer Hatley was named Lab Coordinator for the nursing program. She is developing and purchasing clinical simulations to improve critical thinking skills and mimic/recreate actual hospital experiences, i.e., code type scenarios in lab. Jennifer has recently written 2 grants for lab funding. One grant for \$1,500 was received from the VC Foundation to purchase scenarios for use in the lab. Another grant was written for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for additional equipment and scenarios for both the Vernon and Century City skills labs.
HESI Specialty Testing	As approved by the Advisory Committee, student fees were increased for the Fall 2014 to incorporate Specialty Testing into the nursing curriculum. Major courses will require the students to successfully pass these specialty exams in order to successfully pass the course. This testing will allow the student to identify their strengths and weaknesses in the curriculum and the testing program provides remediation for the testing content. It also allows more exposure to NCLEX type testing questions.
Criminal Background Checks	The BON requires mandatory criminal background checks prior to program admission. Once a student applies for the program, a roster is sent to the BON to begin the investigation process. Due to the new requirement, the nursing program is considering moving application deadline dates earlier to enable the 90 day process completion. Motion made, seconded and approved.
Strategies to Improve Student Success	Discussed a moratorium of admitting re-entry and/or transfer students until NCLEX-RN pass rate increases. Motion made, seconded and approved to no enroll re-entry or transfer students until an increase in the NCLEX- RN pass rate was achieved. Course Requirements for RNSG 2162 discussed. The HESI exit exam passing requirements were increased from 850 to 900. If the student is unable to achieve the 900 score, they will be allowed to take a VC developed final exam for the course. To successfully pass the course, 950 cumulative points must be obtained on the combination of HESI exit exam and VC final exam scores. Motion made, seconded and approved. Mandatory tutoring has been required for re-entry and transfer students who are not passing exams and they must take an approved review course before Affidavit of Graduation is sent to the BON to allow for licensure testing. Faculty have been providing faculty-driven tutoring sessions prior to major exams. Some faculty have recorded their reviews and placed on Blackboard to allow students who are unable to attend the review to have access to the content. Encouraged students to request tutoring from the Pass Center. Have had some excellent comments from previous tutoring sessions with a recent graduate tutoring. The faculty evaluated continuity of grading practices and efforts to inflate grades in the course were dismissed. Added Early Alert to identify students at risk. Raised GPA from 2.5 to 2.75 for admission. HESI A2 pre-entrance score was increased from 75 to 78 for admission.

<p>Program statistics: Graduates, majors, enrollment; list of graduates</p>	<p>A list of 2014 graduates from the nursing program was provided in a handout to members. See Handout</p> <p>5 year unduplicated student major count = 2127</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Fall 2013</td><td>679</td></tr> <tr><td>Spring 2014</td><td>705</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer I 2014</td><td>186</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer II 2014</td><td>255</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"> </td></tr> <tr><td>Fall 2012</td><td>649</td></tr> <tr><td>Spring 2013</td><td>690</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer I 2013</td><td>276</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer II 2013</td><td>314</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"> </td></tr> <tr><td>Fall 2011</td><td>552</td></tr> <tr><td>Spring 2012</td><td>629</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer I 2012</td><td>241</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer II 2012</td><td>309</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"> </td></tr> <tr><td>Fall 2010</td><td>189</td></tr> <tr><td>Spring 2011</td><td>340</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer I 2011</td><td>188</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer II 2011</td><td>250</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"> </td></tr> <tr><td>Fall 2009</td><td>241</td></tr> <tr><td>Spring 2010</td><td>157</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer I 2010</td><td>77</td></tr> <tr><td>Summer II 2010</td><td>153</td></tr> </table> <p>Enrollment:</p> <p>Fall 2013 = 181 Fall 2014 = 175</p> <p>Due to lack of qualified faculty, lack of clinical space and lack of classroom space, the enrollment cannot be increased at this time.</p> <p>Graduates:</p> <p>2013 = 96 2014 = 89</p> <p>100 senior students on target to graduate May 2015</p>	Fall 2013	679	Spring 2014	705	Summer I 2014	186	Summer II 2014	255			Fall 2012	649	Spring 2013	690	Summer I 2013	276	Summer II 2013	314			Fall 2011	552	Spring 2012	629	Summer I 2012	241	Summer II 2012	309			Fall 2010	189	Spring 2011	340	Summer I 2011	188	Summer II 2011	250			Fall 2009	241	Spring 2010	157	Summer I 2010	77	Summer II 2010	153
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<p>External learning experiences, employment, and placement</p>	<p>The decision to have clinicals every other week has impacted the student learning. Efforts to improve and provide higher level learning experiences in the lab setting has been instituted.</p>																																																
<p>Needs of students from special populations</p>	<p>More students seeking assistance from Special Services for such accommodations as quiet testing, increased testing time, etc. Must have proper evaluation and approval from Special Services to receive these accommodations.</p>																																																
<p>Curriculum Decisions:</p>	<p>Due to legislative action SB 497, all Associate Degree programs must be reduced to a 60 semester hour curriculum. This decision requires the nursing program to reduce the Generic curriculum from 72 semester hours to 60 semester hours and the</p>																																																

	LVN Transition curriculum from 65 semester hours to 60 semester hours. Discussed the removal of 4 courses from the curriculum to meet this standard. Microbiology, Nutrition, Speech and Government will be removed from the pre-requisite requirements. The microbiology content will be added to the Nursing Skills course which will be increased 1 semester hour to accommodate the content. The nutrition content will be integrated into the major courses. Speech content is integrated into the curriculum due to presentations and assignments required in the nursing courses. Motion was made and seconded to approve the 60 Semester hour Curriculum
Review goals and objectives	The revised program goals and outcomes for the nursing program were presented and discussed. These goals will be measurable using the NCLEX-RN categories on the licensure exam. A motion was made and seconded to approve the new goals and outcomes for the nursing program.
Program revisions, curriculum/course review	Discussed and approved under curriculum decisions Discussed, and approved the matrices for Program Outcomes, General Education Outcomes and SCANS Outcomes.
BON Update	Discussed the recommendation from the IOM to have ADN nurses complete their BSN within 10 years of graduation. Recommend that 80% of nurses are BSN by 2020. Discussed the push for Community Colleges to offer bachelors' degrees. Some community colleges in Texas are pursuing offering the BSN at the community college level. Gary Don pointed out that at this time VC would not pursue that option due to all the stipulations that would be involved in acquiring that program. VC will continue to partner with MSU and provide an articulation between the two programs. Cathy discussed the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies and the research statistics that could be obtained in that document online.
Program Information	Discussed the competency of the graduates of Vernon College. Positive comments were voiced. A Survey will be sent to the primary health care agencies to evaluate employee competencies. There is an increased number of applicants from the larger metropolitan areas, Dallas-Ft. Worth and Houston. These students are not able to get admitted to the colleges in their area due to admission criteria or space availability. Many of them are ESL who are having difficulty in the program. The majority complete the program and return to the metroplex. Discussed giving priority to students who are applying to the program from the twelve county service area that the college serves. A motion was made and seconded and approved to include that criteria in the admission requirements.
RECORDER SIGNATURE:	DATE: 11-21-2014 NEXT MEETING:

[Handwritten Signature]