

**April 7, 2014**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Prof. Lynn Williams  
Chair, Academic Senate

**FROM:** Prof. Michael Botwin  
Chair, Academic Policy & Planning Committee

**RE: Department of Nursing - Protoschool**

Academic and Planning and Policy Committee has approved the renaming of the Department of Nursing to the School of Nursing as a protoschool in the College of Health and Human Services pursuant to the Policy on Academic Organization (APM113). The designation of the School of Nursing poses no curricular issues to the nursing program. We recommend that this item be forwarded to the Academic Senate for approval.

MB:vb

**March 6, 2014**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Michael Botwin, Chair  
Academic Policy & Planning Committee

**FROM:** Kevin Ayotte, Vice Chair *KA*  
Academic Senate

**RE:** Request for Redesignation to Proto-School

At its meeting of February 24, 2014, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate made the following recommendations regarding the Request for Redesignation to Proto-School:

MSC to refer this item to AP&P. The referral memo will include a request that if AP&P perceives the involvement of curricular issues, the proposal should be forwarded directly to the Senate Undergraduate Curriculum Committee after review by AP&P.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

attachment

KA:vb

# FRESNO STATE

College of Health and Human Services

Date: December 13, 2013

To: Andrew Hoff, Interim Provost

From: Cricket Barakzai, Chair of Nursing

Re: School of Nursing

## Introduction

The faculty of the Department of Nursing would like to apply for a name change from a department to school status. The Department of Nursing is one of seven departments within the College of Health and Human Services, and has a 55-year history on the Fresno State campus starting in 1958 with a small group of students and one baccalaureate degree. Currently it enjoys a prominent place on campus in terms of its strong curriculum, large number of students, and outstanding faculty.

## Justification

Changing the status of the nursing programs from a department to a school has been part of our strategic plan for many years. The curricular changes that have occurred at the basic BSN level, in the RN to BSN program, and at the master's and doctoral levels are consistent with the school status that is being sought. The curriculum of the Department of Nursing at Fresno State has expanded considerably in the past few years, especially since the inception of the DNP program.

Currently we offer the following programs:

- Generic BSN program
- RN to BSN program
- School Nurse Credential Program
- Family Nurse Practitioner Program
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program
- Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist/Nurse Educator Program
- Adult-Gero Clinical Nurse Specialist/Nurse Educator Program
- Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.

The name change from department to school will not change the mission of the nursing programs, but it will improve our opportunity for more professional academic activities and ventures. Within nursing academic circles, a *department* is often thought of as a division of a college or a school providing instruction in one particular subject. A *school*, on the other hand, is viewed as an institution for specialized higher education, often associated with a university. There is increased professionalism associated with school status, bringing us closer to compliance with the California Nurse Practice Act in terms of accountability and responsibility within the organization. The school status will provide increased access to federal research grants; increased

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opportunities for research collaboration with other institutions; and help attract qualified, high caliber faculty in the current competitive market. In addition, it will improve our chances for establishing international collaborations. The school status is also more appropriate, since we now offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. Additionally, school status could also help increase the number of donors.

Another reason for seeking school status for the Department of Nursing is to make us more competitive in securing grant funding from federal, state and private agencies and organizations. It is generally agreed that having school status would improve our visibility and appeal more to funding agencies, because school status is more prestigious than departmental status. A search of the web revealed that federal research grants under the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) were mostly given to nursing programs with school and college status, rather than to departments of nursing. School status will empower us to be more competitive and on an equal footing with others, improve our chances for research collaboration with colleagues from other schools of nursing, and enable us to secure extramural research and traineeship funding.

### ***Precedent***

Precedent for schools and/or colleges of nursing exists both within the CSU system and across the nation at comparable universities that have similar student enrollment and curricular complexity to that of Fresno State. The administrative structure in most major universities for the discipline of nursing is as a college or a school, rather than a department. This is true in major public and private universities or colleges. A search of the web revealed that in all fifty states, nursing programs in all major universities have school or college status.

In California, there are at least 20 colleges or universities, public and private, whose nursing programs have the School of Nursing status.

These include:

University of California (UC) System:

- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Francisco

Private Universities:

- Azusa Pacific University
- Dominican College
- Loma Linda University
- Samuel Merritt-Saint Mary's University
- University of San Diego
- University of San Francisco

## CSU System:

- California State University, Chico
- California State University, Dominguez Hills
- California State University, Fullerton
- California State University, Long Beach
- California State University, Los Angeles
- California State University, Sacramento
- California State University, San Diego
- California State University, San Marcos
- San Francisco State University
- San Jose State University
- California State University, Stanislaus

Within the CSU system, eleven of the sixteen CSU campuses that offer nursing programs currently have school status. Several of these programs are considerably smaller than Fresno State's in terms of student enrollment, diversity of undergraduate and graduate students, and number of nursing programs offered.

### **Contributions**

Department of Nursing at Fresno State has taken a leading role in meeting the healthcare needs of the Central Valley by educating highly qualified baccalaureate (BSN) and masters (MSN) prepared professional nurses. Despite constraints of lack of clinical sites and faculty, all the nursing programs continue to expand. In 2012, there were about 700 pre-nursing students, 344 generic RN students, and more than 200 master's students. With the inception of the DNP program, there are, in addition, currently 60 doctoral students. The graduates of our nursing program, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, are almost all employed in the San Joaquin Valley after graduation, with several hospitals only hiring BSN-prepared nurses. These graduates are much sought-after to take on leadership positions in clinical and management roles. The pass rate for first time test takers of the RN licensing exam (NCLEX) has been above 90% for the past 5 years. This is significantly above both the California (83%) and National (85%) mean pass rate.

With the development of the Central California Center for Excellence in Nursing, the Department of Nursing has brought more in than \$6,000,000 in federal traineeships and state level grants in the past 7 years. The Department of Nursing also has a very active Alumni Association. Through the Center and with the leadership of Pam Loewen, more than 4,500 alumni have been identified and contacted. These alumni have been involved in the Nursing Legacy Project and in various reunion activities.

### **Complexity**

The Department of Nursing is one of the most regulated educational programs within Fresno State. We have four types of accrediting, credentialing, and reviewing bodies at the national, state, and university levels. The California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) approves both the undergraduate pre-licensure BSN program

and the graduate level nurse practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist MSN programs. The Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is our national accrediting body. It accredits both the undergraduate and graduate programs. We also undergo periodic Internal Review by the university. The fourth accrediting body is the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education which accredits our School Nurse Credential program.

Another indication of the complexity of the nursing programs at Fresno State is the over 440 contracts with hospitals, health care agencies, private physicians, and medical groups that we maintain. We continue to add or renew several every week. Once contracts are secured, the actual assignment of our students is done through a Computerized Clinical Placement System. Prior to placement, all students must undergo a background check, drug screening, health screening, and agency orientation. The legal ramifications of these contracts and the coordination of nursing students in these health care facilities are enormous, deserving of school status.

### **Conclusion**

The faculty of the Department of Nursing at Fresno State would like to apply for School of Nursing status within the College of Health and Human Services. In terms of the organizational hierarchy, the proposed School of Nursing will stay within the College of Health and Human Services. The change requested from the university is primarily in name only. If approved to become a school, we will follow the university's policies and procedures to make the name changes in the University Catalog, the university and departmental brochures, and the web pages. There are no other academic units within the university with "nursing" in their name, so there should be no confusion among students or potential applicants to the university.

There are no expected monetary ramifications of the change to school status, since the Department of Nursing is not seeking any additional funding from the university. Changing to school status is not perceived as costing either the nursing department or the university any additional monies. On the contrary, it will help us to achieve outside funding more easily by making us more competitive with other schools of nursing.

Based upon the above major reasons, the faculty of the Department of Nursing at Fresno State believes that the name change from Department of Nursing to School of Nursing is warranted.

Cc: Jody Hironaka-Juteau  
Mitzi Lowe

# FRESNO STATE

College of Health and Human Services

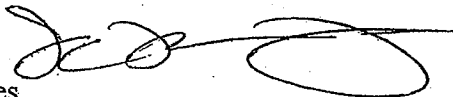
## MEMORANDUM

February 14, 2014

**TO:** Andrew Hoff, Interim Vice President and Provost  
Academic Affairs

✓ Lynn Williams, Chair  
Academic Senate

**FROM:** Jody Hironaka-Juteau, Interim Dean  
College of Health and Human Services



**SUBJECT:** Request for Redesignation to Proto-School

As reflected in the attached memo forwarded by Dr. Cricket Barakzai, the Department of Nursing is requesting a name change to the School of Nursing. This change would result in a redesignation to a "proto-school" (non-autonomous) within the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). After review of the Academic Policy Manual and consultation with the CHHS Dean's Cabinet and Executive Committee on February 6th and 7th, respectively, I strongly support the request and offer the following for your consideration:

As noted in the Policy on Academic Organization and Governance (APM 113, I.C.1.), "Colleges and autonomous schools may be divided into departments, proto-schools, and freestanding programs recognized by the Provost." The Department of Nursing currently resides in the College of Health and Human Services with six other academic departments.

### Background

The Department of Nursing has been in existence since 1958, first offering the bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN), and expanding to the master's (MSN) in 1968. In 2012, Fresno State, in collaboration with San Jose State University, established the California State University Northern California Consortium Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. Fresno State serves as the lead campus for the NorCal DNP and the program has the distinction of being one of only two DNP programs in the CSU. Further, the Department of Nursing is the only academic unit at Fresno State that offers degrees at the baccalaureate, masters and doctoral levels.

### Enhance quality of the programs

This expansion of degree offerings over time has resulted in the ability for students, including Central Valley natives, to meet their educational and career aspirations in nursing without having to leave the region. Fresno State continues to play a critical role in workforce development to meet the growing healthcare needs in our region. With a School of Nursing, Fresno State will be poised to expand its reach and raise its profile in recruiting faculty and students, competing for grants, and strengthening relationships for fundraising.

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New designation at comparable institutions

On a national level, the governance structure at comparable institutions with nursing programs are at the college or school level. In California, the "school" designation is common in public and private institutions. For example, of the CSU campuses that offer nursing programs, eleven of the sixteen are designated as schools. Included are San Jose State University (our partner in the NorCal DNP), the Southern California DNP campuses (Fullerton, Long Beach and Los Angeles), as well as several other campuses whose enrollment, diversity of students and number of programs offered are smaller than Fresno State's.

Budgetary and/or other anticipated implications

It is not anticipated that this proposed change will have short-term budgetary implications. Nursing will continue to function as a non-autonomous unit within CHHS. While an increased profile will serve to strengthen our recruitment efforts, I do not expect changes to enrollment, curriculum, faculty or budget beyond that which is customary e.g. regular curricular enhancements initiated by faculty, typical shifts as a result of retirements, sabbatical leave or assigned time for research, annual budgetary review. No new positions or changes in the budget are planned as a direct result of this redesignation. While letterhead and business cards and other print materials will need to be updated with the new name, replacing these items with new materials as they run out to reduce unnecessary waste is sensible.

summary, I approve the request for the Department of Nursing to be redesignated as the School of Nursing within the College of Health and Human Services. For the above reasons, and those outlined in the attached memo from Dr. Barakzai I respectfully request your support as well.

Thank you for your thoughtful review and consideration of this request. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jhironak@csufresno.edu](mailto:jhironak@csufresno.edu) or 278-4004.

Attachment

cc: Cricket Barakzai, Chair