TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Arnot Ogden Medical Center School of Nursing: Master Plan Amendment to offer the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Nursing

DATE: May 23, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents approve a proposed Master Plan for the Arnot Ogden Medical Center School of Nursing to offer a nursing program leading to the Associate in Applied Science degree (A.A.S.)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its June 2019 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Approval of a master plan by the Board of Regents is required by Section 237 of the Education Law. This would be the institution's initial authorization to award a degree which makes a master plan necessary.

Background Information

Currently the Arnot Ogden Medical Center School of Nursing offers a non-credit diploma program in nursing that was first registered in 1904. Elmira College is a co-registrant for the program, offering the liberal arts and sciences courses. This program

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has remained the only non-credit diploma license-qualifying Registered Nursing program in New York. The School submitted an application seeking authority to award the A.A.S. degree to graduates of the school of nursing. The existing non-credit diploma program will be terminated on June 30, 2021.

Purpose and Goals of the Program and Relation to the Mission: Offering an A.A.S. degree supports the mission of Arnot Health to maximize the "physical, emotional, social and spiritual health" of each person it serves. The purpose and goals of the program are to prepare registered nurses to meet the health needs of the Southern Tier of New York State. An A.A.S. degree program will provide a pathway into registered nursing practice which is more affordable and accessible for nurses in this region. Furthermore, the A.A.S. degree in nursing will provide an academic credential that will facilitate nurses continued learning and progression to a baccalaureate degree and graduate degree if desired.

Curriculum: The A.A.S. curriculum is guided by the *Quality and Safety Education in Nursing* (QSEN Institute, 2018)*.* The program consists of 60 credits and can be completed in two years, four academic semesters. It includes 24 credits in Liberal Arts & Sciences, 36 credits in Nursing, and 755 clinical hours. The Liberal Arts & Sciences courses will be taken at Elmira College, the co-registrant for the program. All nursing classes will be taught in the L. D. Clute building located at the Arnot Ogden Medical Center campus.

Unique Characteristics: A unique characteristic of this hospital-based nursing program is the opportunity for a variety of readily available inpatient and outpatient clinical experiences across all ages, cultures, and socioeconomic groups. Another unique opportunity is the ability to experience interprofessional practice as part of a health care team in the clinical setting. Small class sizes and clinical groups provide an opportunity for more individualized attention to students' learning needs and styles by faculty and advisors.

Requirements for Admission: Admission requirements include: graduation from high school or completed the high school equivalency; overall grade average of 80% or higher; grades of 80% or above in Algebra, Biology and Chemistry; successful completion of the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) exam; letters of reference; essay; complete the TEAS exam with a proficiency score; and complete a criminal background check. Transfer students must meet general admission requirements and achieve a grade of C or better in comparable courses taken within the past five years. In addition to meeting the general admission requirements, the Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) must also have had a grade average of 80% or higher.

Projected enrollment: Enrollment projections for the proposed program is anticipated to be 35 students in the first year. In each subsequent year the admission target also will be 35 - 36 students. With a retention rate of 82-85% during the first year, it is anticipated that 30 students will progress into the second year of the program. Thus, by the fifth year there would be 65 students enrolled in the proposed program.

Facilities, Equipment, Faculty and other Academic Resources available and planned: Currently there are nine full-time, master's prepared faculty in the School of Nursing and a full-time doctorally prepared Director. Faculty are spread across three levels of the existing curriculum which equates to a faculty to student ratio of 1:6. To maintain this faculty to student ratio for clinical experiences, adjunct faculty will be hired in addition to the existing nine full-time faculty. The advising load for faculty in the proposed program is 7 advisees per faculty member.

The library and online resources are adequate for the projected increase in student enrollment. Staggered clinical scheduling is sufficient to accommodate increased enrollment in the proposed program as well as accommodate clinical placements for nursing students from other regional schools. Non-nursing courses will be taught by faculty at Elmira College.

Currently the Nursing Resource Center (NRC) houses both the clinical skills lab and the computer lab. With the projected increase of ten students in the program, additional laboratory and computer space will be needed. A separate computer lab will enable each cohort of students to test online for their quizzes, exams, and comprehensive assessments, while another cohort is scheduled in the laboratory. Eight additional computers will be purchased for the computer lab to accommodate a cohort of thirty-five students. Additional space in the NRC dedicated to clinical skills and simulation will provide ample opportunity for students to practice and demonstrate competencies. Two static mannequins will be purchased to accommodate clinical skills practice and competency assessment with the projected increase in student enrollment.

Prospects for employment/further education for the programs' graduates: Vacancies for registered nurses in the Southern Tier are not being filled by the existing nursing programs in the region. Converting the diploma program to an A.A.S. degree is expected to increase enrollment by approximately 20%. An associate degree in Nursing at Arnot Health would also facilitate the progression of graduates towards obtaining a baccalaureate degree, one which is mandated at state and national levels, supported by research, and endorsed by professional nursing organizations.

Department staff reviewed the application materials and determined that the proposed program meets the standards of registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In addition, a canvass was conducted of all institutions in the Southern Tier Region of New York and all New York institutions offering licensing-qualifying A.A.S. program in nursing. We received no objections.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the master plan for Arnot Ogden Medical Center School of Nursing to confer the A.A.S. degree on qualified graduates of the registered nursing program.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan, the Department will register the proposed program, and the school will proceed to enroll students.