



DEC 21 2006

College of Nursing

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To: Randy Smith, Vice-Provost of Academic Programs
From: Sandy Cody, ^{Sc}Asst. Dean for Student Affairs, College of Nursing
Date: December 19, 2006
RE: Increasing minimum GPA for admission to the College of Nursing

I met with Deb Serling, Asst. Dean of University Exploration, and Jack Cooley, Asst. Vice Provost of Enrollment Services and Undergraduate Education, on December 11 to discuss issues related to the large number of students enrolled in the pre-major for nursing.

The College of Nursing admits students to the nursing major in their sophomore year after completing prerequisites. The table in figure 1 contains the number of applicants to the BSN program from 2000-2006, the number of pre-major nursing students, and the number admitted to the program. The college has experienced a steady increase of applications each year. The percentage of applicants admitted to the program is represented by the figure in parentheses. Since 2000, the percent admitted from the applicant pool has dropped from 48% to 29% in 2006.

Figure 1

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>APPLICANT POOL</u>	<u>PRE-NURSING STUDENTS</u>	<u>TOTAL ADMITTED (% OF APPLICANT POOL)</u>
2000	258	0	124 (48%)
2001	300	44	117 (39%)
2002	396	140	153 (38%)
2003	468	289	158 (33%)
2004	489	354	155 (31%)
2005	487	370	169 (34%)
2006	559	417	166 (29%)

We anticipate that the total number admitted to the college in autumn 2007 will remain at approximately 160. Due to constraints beyond the control of the college, we are unable to increase the number of students admitted to the major. Nursing programs across the country are experiencing a shortage of teaching faculty – especially those who are doctorally-prepared. Also, we compete with other nursing programs in Columbus for clinical placements and preceptors. Consequently, we are unable to increase the number of students admitted to the undergraduate program beyond approximately 160.

The following issues have been a concern to the college:

1. The majority of our pre-major nursing students are never admitted to the nursing major.
2. The average GPA for successful applicants to nursing in 2006 was 3.59. Since 2000, the average GPA for successful applicants has been between 3.50-3.59. **Currently 164 pre-nursing majors hold a GPA below 3.0.**
3. In addition to the pre-major nursing students, the college also has about 550 enrolled undergraduate nursing students (sophomores, juniors, and seniors.) Three academic advisors provide services to over 1,000 undergraduate students. Pre-major nursing students with low GPAs are unlikely to be admitted to the major, but require the most attention. Consequently, our academic advisors are spending over half of their time working with students who will never be admitted to the major.
4. Our enrolled nursing students require academic development, career advising, and other services from our academic advisors who are occupied with the pre-major nursing students.
5. Pre-major nursing students with low GPAs (below 3.0) erroneously expect to be competitive for admission to the nursing major. These students would be better served by enrolling in University Exploration and applying to other programs.

On December 12, the nursing faculty voted to increase the minimum GPA for admission to the nursing major from 2.75 to 3.0 effective February 2, 2007, which is the first day of the 2008-09 application cycle. The goal is to:

1. Reduce the number of pre-major nursing students.
2. Re-direct students with low GPAs to more appropriate options.
3. Allow our academic advisors to provide more services to enrolled nursing students.

As a long-term plan, the college will establish admission criteria for pre-major nursing. Deb Serling and Jack Cooley have offered to assist us in developing criteria that will build a competitive applicant pool among our pre-major nursing students resulting in a greater percentage of admissions from pre-nursing into the nursing major.

I understand that there is a process that we must follow in effecting the proposed change in our enrollment management plan, and would like to elicit your assistance in following the appropriate procedure. Our request is to secure approval for the proposed increase of the minimum GPA for admission to the nursing major from 2.75 to 3.0. I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss this proposal further. Thank you for your consideration.

c: J. Cooley
E. Lenz
D. Serling