



School of Natural Sciences

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RE: FPU'S PRE-LICENSURE BSN PROGRAM STATUS UPDATE

Dear California State Board of Registered Nurses:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update pertaining to the status of Fresno Pacific University's (FPU) compliance to BRN regulations to launch a pre-licensure BSN program slated for an August 2022 start. During the 01/28/2022 update provided to NEC, Joanyett Mays-Scott, SNEC, Mary Ann McCarthy and EO Loretta Melby; FPU shared that Dr. Rox Ann Sparks, FPU's PD for the PL program would be retiring from FPU at the conclusion of this academic year. Consequently, FPU was asked to provide a succession plan replete with a hiring timeline, release time and training.

Succession Plan. FPU has requested assistance from Dr. Mary Wickman, faculty emerita from Vanguard University and past Director of Nursing and Program Director for Vanguard and previously, for CSU Fullerton. EDP-P-03 paperwork has been submitted for approvals. With Dr. Wickman in place as FPU's Interim Director of Nursing and PD of the BSN program, she will bring experience and a wealth of resources that can be utilized for the continued development of the BSN Program. Dr. Wickman's appointment is 100% administrative with no faculty teaching obligations so that her time can be dedicated to program development and personnel training. The newly appointed PD for the MSN and the AD for the BSN program have all been to CACN's Fall Conference. Plans for the ADs to attend the Spring CACN in Sacramento are underway.

Release Time. Current PD and AD release time is adequate to run the program. Over the last 2 years (2019-20 and 2020-21), FPU has provided on average 70% release time to the

PD and approximately 50% release time to ADs. In AY 2021-22, the PD received 18 units (or 60% release) and the AD received 24 units (or 80% release) to learn the new program and to set up the Skills and SIM labs. PD and AD release time is expected remain at 60% and 50%, for AY2022-23.

Content Expert Hiring Plan. FPU has two (2) current openings for BSN faculty. The advertising was expanded from CCCU, AAHHE, and the Christian Leader, to the following discipline-specific sites in late January: CACN, ANA, AACN. One applicant has been preliminary interviewed and is slated to go through faculty search review in March. An additional MSN faculty member has been approved to hire and is posted on the aforementioned sites. The position for a new Nursing Director and Chair of the program has been administratively approved. The Job Description is expected to be posted the week of February 14th with interviews projected for April/early May. A current MSN faculty and a new adjunct faculty hire both have content expertise in Pediatrics. Existing faculty have been approved for Med Surge and Geriatrics.

Skills and SIM Laboratories. FPU has the space for a Skills lab, SIM lab, and Control center at their North Fresno Campus located at 5 River Park Place West in Fresno. This is the current location of the MSN lab and classes for the MSN and RN-to-BSN programs. Two hospital beds and two Laerdal Sim Manikins were the initial equipment procured for the Lab. Community engagement and support for the program is high. Partnerships with Adventist Health and Medical Ministries have resulted in additional hospital beds, gurneys, lifts, wheelchairs, basinets, bedside tables, baby warmer, hampers, carts, and things of like nature being added to the Lab inventory.

Upgraded electrical, flooring and AV equipment will be completed in the next 5-6 weeks. Site plans were drafted, internally approved, and submitted to the city for formal approval. A contractor has been selected for the electrical and flooring. That work will be completed in 3 weeks. An additional 2-3 weeks is needed for the AV equipment installation. All additional equipment and capital items will be ordered in February with the remaining consumable

items to be ordered on July 1 at the start of the fiscal year. The lab should be fully stocked by late July or early August, at the latest.

Additional partnerships are currently underway with Community Medical and Camarena Health to collaborate on additional support for lab expansion (to support the approved cohort numbers of 48 in year 3) and for possible shared appointment of nursing faculty. These are initial conversations but have involved FPU presidential and board leadership with senior leadership from the respective community partner organizations.

The future of Nursing at FPU depends on skilled leaders, faculty, and staff that can not only bring the requisite expertise but also the passion and dedication to equip students to become practitioners who exemplify leadership and selfless service to others. Community partnerships are an important part of this process and will be fostered by creating a Nursing Advisory Board. In this way, FPU's nursing program can make a marked difference in the local communities and in the Greater Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tara Sirvent', written in a cursive style.

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