

**PETITION FOR WAIVER OF DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
CANSECO SCHOOL OF NURSING
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the petition from Texas A&M International University Canseco School of Nursing for a waiver of director qualifications on behalf of Natalie Burkhalter, MSN, RN, FNP and the recommendation from the Education Liaison Committee (ELC) regarding the petition.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- Dr. Susan Walker has been the Director of the Canseco School of Nursing since 1997 and her retirement date was May 31, 2007.
- The national search for a new director has produced no suitable candidate to date.
- The administration at Texas A&M International University is seeking to appoint Natalie Burkhalter, MSN, RN, FNP as Interim Director while a search continues.
- Rule 215.6 *Administration and Organization* requires that the dean or director of a baccalaureate degree nursing education program hold a doctoral degree.
- Ms. Burkhalter's highest degree is a Master's degree in nursing. She is also authorized as a Family Nurse Practitioner, an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and a Medical-Surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist.
- Ms. Burkhalter meets all of the other requirements and has been actively involved in managing the affairs of the School of Nursing since its inception.
- All required documents, credentials and transcripts for Ms. Burkhalter are in order.
- The petition for waiver of Dean, Director, or Coordinator Required Qualification Form was referred to the Education Liaison Committee (ELC) for review. (See documents in Attachment #1.)
- Members of the ELC recommend approval of the waiver.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- Ms. Burkhalter is credentialed with a Master's degree in nursing.
- She has been involved with management of the baccalaureate degree nursing program since its inception.
- The Texas A&M International Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program has maintained high NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates with commendations for the past three years.

YEAR	Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rates	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2006	Full	92.86%	26/28
2005	Full	95.83%	23/24
2004	Full	93.55%	29/31

- The program has actively been involved in a national search.

Cons:

- None

EDUCATION LIAISON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Members of the Education Liaison Committee voted to recommend approval of the waiver of director qualifications for Natalie Burkhalter, MSN, RN, FNP as Interim Director of the Canseco School of Nursing at Texas A&M International University. A letter dated May 24, 2007 was forwarded to Dr. Dan Jones, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Texas A&M International University, advising him that Ms. Burkhalter could be appointed effective June 1, 2007 pending Board approval at the July Board meeting (Attachment #2).

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Move to approve the appointment of Natalie Burkhalter, MSN, RN, FNP as Interim Director of the Canseco School of Nursing at Texas A&M International University based on the recommendation from the Education Liaison Committee as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment # 3).

INTERNAL CHECKLIST: APPROVAL TO APPOINT NEW DEAN, DIRECTOR, OR COORDINATOR

1. Name of Program/Type of Program: *Texas A&M International University Canseco School of Nursing Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program*
2. Name of New Dean, Director, or Coordinator and Credentials: *Natalie C. Burkhalter, MSN, RN, FNP*
3. Requested Date of Appointment: *June 1, 2007*
4. Date notification letter received from the controlling agency/governing authority of the institution: *May 17, 2007*
5. *New Dean, Director, or Coordinator Qualification Form* received from controlling agency/governing institution?
 Yes No
6. Program Approval: Initial Full Full with Warning Conditional
7. *Curriculum Vitae* received? Yes No
8. Holds a current license or privilege to practice as a Registered Nurse in the State of Texas? Yes No

RN License # 246295 State TX Expiration Date 6-30-2009

For Professional Nursing Education Programs Only

1. *Official Transcripts* from all educational institutions received? Yes No
2. Holds a master's or doctorate degree in nursing? Yes No
Holds MSN but not doctorate.
3. Holds a doctoral degree, if administering a baccalaureate or master's degree program (Rule 215)?
 Yes No
4. Has a minimum of three years teaching experience in professional nursing education program (Rule 215)?
 Yes No
5. Has demonstrated knowledge, skills and abilities in administration within professional nursing education program (Rule 215)? Yes No
6. Has a minimum of three years teaching experience in a program appropriately related to type of program being administered (Rule 219)? Yes No

Appointment approved. Date approval/confirmation letter sent from BNE:

Requires Waiver of Qualifications. Date controlling agency/governing institution notified:
5-17-07 - waiver submitted - ELC approved 5-21-07

May 24, 2007

Dr. Dan R. Jones
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Texas A&M International University
5201 University Boulevard
Laredo, Texas 78041

Dear Dr. Jones:

This will acknowledge receipt of the letter from your office dated May 15, 2007 notifying the Board of Nurse Examiners of your request to name Natalie C. Burkhalter, MSN, RN, FNP as Interim Director of the Canseco School of Nursing effective June 1, 2007. Since Ms. Burkhalter does not meet the requirement in Rule 215.6(f)(3) which states that the director of a baccalaureate or master's degree program hold a doctoral degree, it was necessary that a Petition for Waiver form be submitted to the board office. The petition and all documents were reviewed by the Education Liaison Committee (ELC) of the Board and the waiver was approved on May 21, 2007. This decision requires ratification by the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting on July 19-20, 2007.

Since the ELC approved the petition for waiver, Ms. Burkhalter may be appointed effective June 1, 2007 to serve as Interim Director of Canseco School of Nursing pending Board approval in July. Appointment as Interim Director may not exceed one year.

Please be assured that our staff is available to assist Ms. Burkhalter in her role as Interim Director in any way feasible. I shall be notifying her of our new director orientation requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Dr. Susan Walker

DRAFT LETTER

July 23, 2007

Dr. Dan R. Jones
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Texas A&M International University
5201 University Boulevard
Laredo, Texas 78041-1900

Dear Dr. Jones:

This letter is to notify you that your request for approval to appoint Natalie Burkhalter, MSN, RN, FNP as Interim Director of the Canseco School of Nursing and the Petition for Waiver of Director Required Qualifications was discussed at the July 19-20, 2007 meeting of the Board of Nurse Examiners. The Board wishes to thank for being present to answer questions. Based upon the discussion and the recommendation from the Education Liaison Committee of the Board, it was the decision of the Board to ratify approval to appoint Natalie Burkhalter, MSN, RN, FNP as Interim Director of the Canseco School of Nursing at Texas A&M International University effective June 1, 2007.

Rule 215.6(g)(3) related to *Administration and Organization* states that "if an interim dean or director is appointed to fill the position, this appointment shall not exceed one year." Ms. Burkhalter's appointment may extend until June 1, 2008.

Be assured that our staff is available to assist Ms. Burkhalter in her role as Interim Director in any way feasible. Rule 215.6(h) requires newly appointed directors to attend the next scheduled orientation provided by the Board. Board staff will advise Ms. Burkhalter of the details of the orientation in a separate correspondence.

If additional information is needed, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Natalie Burkhalter, MSN, RN, FNP