

**Consideration of a Policy Limiting the Time Between
Board Approval of a New Nursing Education Program and Starting Date of the Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the recommendation for policies limiting the time allowed between the time of Board approval of a new nursing education program and the actual starting date of the program of study.

Background:

- Board Staff follow Board-approved policies for the review and approval processes of proposals for new nursing education programs. The time lines allow the program and Board Staff to review drafts with ample time for each step without allowing information to become out-of-date before the proposal reaches a resolution.
- A proposal without action for a period of one year is considered inactive.
- Programs are allowed a period of one year to complete revisions of a proposal.
- Board Staff expect that all dated documents within the proposal are no older than one year.
- Recently a few proposals have been approved by the Board, but the programs did not begin on the date stated in the proposal. Delays may occur because of changes in administrative decisions, funding, or accreditation barriers.
- When a program does not begin within a reasonable time after Board approval, many areas of the proposal become invalid. Potential faculty are no longer available. Clinical affiliating agreements that have not been activated may no longer be valid. Potential students may have enrolled in other programs. Letters of support are out of date.
- Over time the changes become significant and need review by Board Staff.
- One program that was approved in October 2011 has not yet started, but they have been willing to provide updated information.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Board Staff suggest that when an approved program does not enroll students after one (1) year from the date they received Board approval, an addendum of changes in the plans for the program should receive Board Staff review for acceptability. If changes dramatically change the proposal, Board approval may be required.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to approve a policy that newly approved programs that do not begin after one year from date of Board approval shall submit to Board Staff an addendum outlining all changes to the proposal with updated letters and contracts. Board Staff may approve the changes, request additional information, or elect to seek a Board decision about the changes.