To: South Dakota Board of Regents  
From: South Dakota State University (SDSU)  
Request to activate the following program: BS to MS in Nurse Practitioner and related post-Master’s certificate offered at SDSY

Background Information: This program was placed on inactive status in December, 2012 and is listed in the BOR minutes as Nursing M.S. and Post Master’s Certificate –Family Nurse Practitioner. Later in the minutes, the broader titles of BS to MS in Nurse Practitioner and post-Master’s Certificate are reflected. At the time of this change, preparation of advanced practice nurses was changed to the professional doctorate degree (i.e., Doctor of Nursing Practice).

Rationale for the Reactivation of the BS to MS in Nurse Practitioner program: The compelling evidence driving this request was input from our health care workforce partners, especially Sanford Health and Avera Health. These partners provide primary and acute care health services for a large region of the Midwest, including the state of South Dakota (SD). Leaders in these organizations have voiced an urgent need for nurse practitioners to be prepared at the Master of Science level in a two year program, versus the extended program length of the Doctor of Nursing practice (currently 4 ½ or 5 ½ years after the Bachelor of Science degree). These nurse practitioners are needed to meet critical rural health needs. The faculty at SDSU College of Nursing have offered high quality and nationally accredited nurse practitioner education for many years, with certification exam pass rates that far exceed the national norms. We are well-prepared to meet this healthcare workforce need.

In 2004, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing passed a resolution calling for all Master’s programs that prepare advanced practice nurses (including nurse practitioners) to move to the professional doctorate level by 2015. In response to this resolution, SDSU developed a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program to prepare nurse practitioners and the Master of Science (MS) option was placed on inactive status. Students who were enrolled in the MS program at the time continued to progress through the program until just recently when the DNP program option was fully in place. However, in 2004, the healthcare landscape in the United States was very different than it is in 2013. The contemporary reality of the Affordable Care Act has led to reevaluation of how primary care providers can be educated to enter the healthcare workforce quickly in order to meet the demands to provide health care for a large number of Americans who now have access to care. There is an urgent need for primary care providers like family nurse practitioners. In SD, the Governor’s Task Force on Primary Care has affirmed this critical need in our state.

According to recent data from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, nearly all accredited nursing programs that offer nurse practitioner education continue to offer the program at the Master’s level, and many offer both the Master’s and DNP. There are less than 20 programs accredited by the AACN that offer only the DNP. South Dakota State University is one of those programs. While the decision to move to the DNP only was laudable, it was made in a very different healthcare environment. In order to meet urgent healthcare needs, we are requesting to reinstate our accredited MS program to prepare nurse practitioners while retaining the DNP program options.

Resources are not required: The program will be reactivated within budget and no further resources are needed. Preceptor reimbursement costs for the nurse practitioner program were recently approved by the BOR and sent to the state legislature for consideration. These same fees would apply to the MS nurse practitioner preceptors.
SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
PROGRAM PLACEMENT ON INACTIVE STATUS OR TERMINATION

INSTITUTION: South Dakota State University

PROGRAM TITLE: Post-Master’s Certificate-- Family Nurse Practitioner
S.CERTG.PMNP

Proposed Date of Termination: December 2013

Last Date of Actively Enrolled Students: December 2013

LEVEL: X Masters

CATEGORY: X Certificate

2. TERMINATION WITH ENROLLED STUDENTS
   A: Justification:
      The BS to MS in Nurse Practitioner (Family, Neonatal, Mental Health, Pediatric NP and Pediatric CNS) have been replaced by the BS to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), approved by the SD Board of Regents at the December 2008 Board meeting.

   B. Plan for completion of program by current students
      All current BS to MS Nurse Practitioner students are on schedule to graduate in 2013, and the specialization in Nurse Practitioner has moved to the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

   C. Academic year and term by which currently enrolled students must complete the program: December 2013

   D. Academic year and term program termination status begins: January 2014
      (Program status in the database will be Phasing Out.)

   E. Academic year and term program terminated: January 2014
      (Program status in the database will be changed to Deleted.)

   F. Potential cost savings and uses of savings:
      No cost savings anticipated. The program is ongoing with the students now continuing through the courses from BS to DNP.

   G. Resulting employee terminations and other possible implications including impact on other programs:
      None. Additional faculty have been added to teach the additional 31 credits to reach the DNP level of knowledge.

Laurie Stenberg Nichols 10/30/2012
Institutional Authorization (President) Date