

# NLNAC

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.

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March 21, 2007

James A. Fain, PhD, RN, BC-ADM, FAAN  
Dean and Professor, College of Nursing  
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth  
285 Old Westport Road  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747-2300

Dear Dr. Fain:

This letter is formal notification of the action taken by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission at its meeting on February 21-23, 2007. **The Board of Commissioners granted the master's degree nursing program, including the post-master's certificate program continuing accreditation and scheduled the next evaluation visit for Fall 2014. The Board of Commissioners granted the baccalaureate degree nursing program continuing accreditation and scheduled the next evaluation visit for Fall 2014.**

Deliberations centered on the Self Study Report, the School Catalog, the Site Visitors' Report, and the recommendation for accreditation proposed by the Program Evaluators and the Evaluation Review Panel. (See Summary of Deliberations and Recommendation of the Evaluation Review Panel)

The Board of Commissioners found the following strengths and areas needing development:

#### Strengths by Accreditation Standard:

##### Standard I Mission and Governance

- The leadership of the dean. (M-PMC/B)

##### Standard II Faculty

- Faculty scholarship.

##### Standard III Students

- Advising and counseling services provide outstanding support for all students. (M-PMC/B)

Areas Needing Development by Standard:

Standard I Mission and Governance

- Review and revise the organizational schematic to better reflect the CON goals/objectives/purposes. (M-PMC/B)

Standard IV Curriculum and Instruction

- Review and revise the clinical learning experience(s) for the advanced practice tracks to assure that there are sufficient hours to meet eligibility requirements for graduates to qualify for the advanced practice certification examinations. (M/PMC)
- Identify strategies to assure avoidance of conflict of interest issues related to combining salary with the allocation of credits for the graduate student assistantships. (M)
- Review and revise course syllabi for the ANP track to more effectively reflect the NONPF Criteria. (M/PMC)

Standard VI Integrity

- Review and revise public documents (paper and electronic) to assure that they are accurate, current, clear, complete, and consistent, including: course descriptions, the use of program option in catalog and web site, number of elective courses/credits expected. (B)
- Review and revise public documents (paper and electronic) to assure that they are accurate, current, clear, complete, and consistent including: consistent use of the degree awarded (MS not MSN), NLNAC listing, course titles clock to credit hours. (M-PMC)

Standard VII Educational Effectiveness

- Continue to review and refine the Systematic Program Evaluation Plan to ensure internal consistency of the plan structure, all expected levels of achievement are measurable, and that data collected facilitate program decision making (M-PMC/B)
- Identify strategies to insure consistent ongoing implementation of the plan. (M-PMC/B)

On behalf of the Commission, we thank you and your colleagues for your commitment to quality nursing education. By choosing to have accreditation by NLNAC, your nursing program demonstrates a continued interest in having the program measured against the highest national standards of quality in nursing education. If you have questions about this action or about Commission policies and procedures, please write or call Sharon J. Tanner, EdD, RN, Executive Director of NLNAC.



Grace G. Newsome, EdD, APRN, BC, FNP  
Chair, NLNAC Board of Commissioners

cc: Earlene B. Merrill, EdD, RN Program Evaluator  
Grace Newsome, EdD, APRN, BC, FNP Program Evaluator  
Lynn C. Parsons, DSN, RN, CNA Program Evaluator  
Patricia R. Messmer, PhD, RN, BC, FAAN Program Evaluator

Enc. Summary of Deliberations of the Evaluation Review Panel