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APR 15 2005

**SUNY BROCKPORT**

College Senate  
State University of New York  
College at Brockport  
350 New Campus Drive  
Brockport, NY 14420-2925  
(585) 395-2586 (Fax) 395-2246

SUNY BROCKPORT  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

**Resolution # 14**  
**2004-2005**  
**COLLEGE SENATE**

TO: Dr. John B. Clark, Interim College President

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: **April 4, 2005**

RE: ⇨ I. Formal Resolution (*Act of Determination*)  
II. Recommendation (*Urging the Fitness of*)  
III. Other, For Your Information (*Notice, Request, Report, etc.*)

COLLEGE SENATE  
SUNY College at Brockport  
APR 21 2005  
350 New Campus Drive  
Brockport, NY 14420-2925

SUBJ: **GPA Admission Requirements in the Department of Nursing**

#09 04-05 EP/UC

Signed: Dawn M. Jones Date: April 11, 2005  
(Dr. Dawn M. Jones, 2004-2005 College Senate President)

**Please fill out the bottom portion and return document to the College Senate Office.**

TO: The College Senate

FROM: Dr. John B. Clark, Interim College President

RE: ⇨ I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle)

a. Accepted. Effective Date: 4/19/05

b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/PYI

a. Received and acknowledged \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

b. Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRIBUTED BY PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO: Executive Council

DISTRIBUTED BY PROVOST'S OFFICE TO: Dean's Council

DISTRIBUTED ALSO TO: Originator, Academic Advisement, Registrar (as appropriate)

Signed: John B. Clark Date: 4/19/05  
(Dr. John B. Clark, Interim College President, SUNY College at Brockport)

**COLLEGE SENATE OFFICE  
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

ROUTING NUMBER*	#09 04-05 EP/UC
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*NUMBER TO BE ASSIGNED BY SENATE OFFICE*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 23 - Proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

Submit all proposals to the College Senate President electronically or on a disk with a hard copy.  
Please provide cover page information requested.  
[facprez@brockport.edu](mailto:facprez@brockport.edu), [fsenate@brockport.edu](mailto:fsenate@brockport.edu)  
College Senate Office, 426 Allen Building

**1. PROPOSAL TITLE:**

Please be somewhat descriptive, for example, *Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal* rather than *Graduate Proposal*.

GPA Admission Requirements in the Department of Nursing

**2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:**

The Department of Nursing wishes to raise its GPA admission requirement for 2.5 to 2.75.

**3. SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES:** PLEASE DATE ALL UPDATED DOCUMENTS and resubmit to the Senate Office electronically prior to Senate review and vote at [fsenate@brockport.edu](mailto:fsenate@brockport.edu).

First Submission	Updated on	Updated on	Updated on
11/10/04	1/2005	3/3/05	

**4. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)**

Name	Department	Phone	Email
Nancy Iafrati	Nursing	395-5321	niafrati@brockport.edu

**5. COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)**

Standing Committee	Forwarded To	Date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Planning & Policies	Committee Chair	<b>11/10/04(UC) 11/19(EP)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Professional Staff Policies	Executive Committee	<b>1/24/05, 3/7/05</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> General Education & Curriculum Policies	Senate Floor	
<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Curriculum & Policies	College President	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Policies	Other	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Curriculum & Policies		

\*(ROUTING NUMBER WILL BE A CHRONOLOGICAL NUMBER SEQUENCE FOLLOWED BY COMMITTEE INITIALS)

### ***GPA Admission Requirements in the Department of Nursing***

Rationale: To be considered for admission into the Department of Nursing, students must take a number of prerequisites and have a GPA of 2.5 or above. The Department of Nursing proposes to raise the admission requirement to a GPA of 2.75 or above. There has been a well-established pattern over the years of nursing student struggling if they are at the lower end of the spectrum.

Following graduation, nursing students are required to pass the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) before they are allowed to practice as registered nurses. There have been times in the past when SUNY Brockport's passing rates have been below the national and state averages. The students who do poorly on the NCLEX exam are often the students with the lower admission GPAs and the students that struggle throughout the nursing program. The Department of Nursing has undertaken a number of initiatives in the past few years to help increase student's ability to be successful while in the program and to be able to pass the NCLEX upon completion of the program. Our passing rates have improved over the past few years from 70% to 84% with these changes, but it is still the students at the lower end of the spectrum that do poorly in our program and on the certifying exam. At 84%, our passing rate is still below the national and state averages and we are low in comparison to most of the other four-year nursing programs in the area.

There are concerns that Nursing Department is being elitist and that we will accept less students if we raise the GPA requirement. This in fact would not be the case. Over the past few years, nursing programs around New York State and across the nation have seen an increase in the number of qualified applicants. For our admission class of Fall 2004, we had 100 qualified applicants for 60 spots. We had to turn away many qualified candidates to our program (even transfers with GPAs bordering on 4.0) because we were required to take students on campus that had less impressive qualifications. The nursing department is able to accept a new class of 60 students each fall and this number has been in place for at least 20 years. Among other factors, hospitals limit the number of student that each instructor can bring into the clinical setting. Because the acuity level of patients has increased over time, the acceptable ratio designated by area hospitals is capped at a ratio of 6:1 in the clinical setting. We would continue to accept a class of 60 students, these students would just be coming in with a higher GPA. (As an aside, there is a nationwide nursing shortage and the Department of Nursing might be able to accept more students if more faculty resources became available.)

In addition to elitism, another concern raised with this proposal is that students will not be aware of this change in the requirement to the nursing program. Students wishing to major in nursing are well aware of the requirements for acceptance into the Nursing Program. Students on campus declare nursing as a major either as a freshman admit or at a later date. These students are assigned a nursing advisor who meets with them at least once each semester to help them plan their course of study so that they can fulfill all the admission requirements. Requirements for admission in to the program are available to interested

candidates in a variety of sources including the Undergraduate Studies Handbook and the glossy handout available through the Admissions Department. Students are given this information in writing upon meeting with an advisor for the first time. Students interested in nursing would be given plenty of notice if and when the GPA admission requirement was raised.

The Department of Nursing wishes to raise our GPA admission requirements because students who do well in prerequisites do better in the nursing program and in the end are more likely to be competent nurses. We have an obligation to the profession to produce the best-qualified graduate nursing students. SUNY Brockport has raised the bar over the past few years, and the Department of Nursing wishes to raise the bar as well.

TO: College Senate

FROM: Linda Snell  
Chairperson, Department of Nursing

DATE: October 27, 2004

I fully support the attached change in admission requirements to the undergraduate nursing program. Nursing students face a very challenging curriculum. It is well established that students with borderline GPAs fail out of the nursing program in higher proportions than academically stronger applicants. This pattern persists in the NCLEX success rates, which are crucial to the maintenance of our national accreditation.

Several schools in the Western New York area have raised the admitting GPA to 3.0. Since our NCLEX pass rate is directly compared with these competing schools, it is essential that every effort is put forth to admit strong candidates who are most likely to succeed in the nursing program and pass NCLEX. If there are further questions, I would be happy to address them.

LS:klb

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TO: Dr. Linda Snell, Chairperson Department of Nursing

FROM: Christine E. Murray, Dean School of Professions

RE: GPA requirement

DATE: November 8, 2004

I am in full support of the Department of Nursing proposal to increase the entry grade point average from 2.5 to 2.75. The enrollment in the Nursing program is limited to fulfill accreditation requirements. The increased demand for the program last year resulted in having to deny a large number of students. Increasing the grade point average will address this problem and is also consistent with the higher quality students who are enrolling at the College.