

**Report of the University Senate
Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee (RGPEC)
on Charge A-1102
Proposal for New School of Nursing-Camden**

March 2011

Charge: At the February 2011 committee meeting, discuss the [Proposal to Establish a School of Nursing at Rutgers-Camden](#). Discuss with Camden Chancellor Pritchett or his representative, who will attend your committee meeting, any questions or concerns you may have relating to the proposal, from the perspective of your committee's standing charge. By March 7, 2011, prepare and send to the Senate Executive Secretary your advice, findings, and recommendations on the proposal, which will be forwarded to the University Structure and Governance Committee so it can prepare its own response on this matter immediately after its discussions at its March 2011 meeting. Respond to Senate Executive Secretary (for the Senate Executive Committee) no later than March 7, 2011.

Background: This charge was given to the committee with a very short timeframe for consideration, due, in part, to upcoming Board of Governors and Board of Trustees meetings at which the creation of the new Nursing School would be discussed. Since creation of a new school falls within the scope afforded to the Senate's role, we believe that care needs to be taken in the future to ensure that adequate time is provided for Senate committees to discuss issues and make recommendations.

Data Collection: In looking at the charge, the Committee met with several people:

- Dr. Wendell Pritchett – Chancellor, Campus at Camden
- Dr. Margret Marsh – Executive Dean, Camden College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Joanne Robinson – Chair, Department of Nursing, CCAS

Considerations: The Committee understands that the expansion of programs being offered to students is in the university's best interest. Rutgers, and specifically the Camden campus, are in a unique position to address a severe lack of nurses in southern New Jersey. In the field of Nursing, the need to educate large numbers of students is becoming an imperative. To this end, the 2 plus 2 program in which a student enters as a Pre-Nursing student and then applies to the Department of Nursing for the completion of their studies will be phased out. In its place, the Department of Nursing established and accepted its first class of 4 year Nursing students. The Nursing program was recently re-accredited and this accreditation will be in effect for the next 9 years.

Findings: The committee examined the creation of an undergraduate school of nursing and graduate programs in nursing as separate topics:

1. Undergraduate program

The Faculty of the School of Nursing, Newark and New Brunswick would prefer a single unified school across the University. However, the committee understands that there are separate Schools of Business on each of the Rutgers campuses, and would like to further investigate whether this model is best for the proposed School of Nursing. Without the addition of additional deans, adding another campus to the existing dean's responsibilities could create an undue burden. In addition, there is a belief that Camden campus faculty are not likely to endorse this idea, because all of the current faculty and students would become Newark employees and students.

2. Graduate Program

Despite the assurances by the speakers that addressed the Committee, several members felt that there would not be enough academic or administrative support in order to be able to accept both Masters and Ph.D. students within the next decade. The Committee feels that the proposal provides an irresponsible estimate of the costs of additional new faculty, especially when considering that Nursing students take courses in other university departments that will also need additional faculty (i.e., Biology, Chemistry, and Psychology). The committee is very concerned that this will overburden existing faculty and staff within these departments.

Recommendations: In considering if this School should be established, the RGPEC would like to see a survey conducted concurrent with the possible establishment of the School of Nursing to assess the viability of a single unified School across all campuses. The results of this survey should be reported back to the RGPEC with the results within one year to assess if this is a feasible option.

For the undergraduate level of education, the Committee agrees with the expansion to a School of Nursing. This will further the excellence of the established program and will allow additional students to be admitted to the program. We have some reservations about the Masters and Ph.D. programs The Committee looks forward to assessing proposals for these programs when the time is appropriate.

We, the Rutgers Senate Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee endorse the establishment of the Camden School of Nursing as a new undergraduate school within the university.

Research, and Graduate and Professional Education Committee

Cooper, Barbara, SAS-NB (F), Co-Chair

Swartley-McArdle, Daniel, GS-C (S), Co-Chair - Executive Committee Liaison

Ayres, Cynthia, Nursing (F)

Brennan, Katherine, GS-NB (S)

Buch, Anders, SAS-NB (F)

Cachel, Susan, SAS-NB (F)

Clear, Todd, SCJ Dean (A)

Cosandey, Frederic, Engineering (F)

Czaplicki, Jenna, Law-C (S)

Dighton, John, At-Large C (F)

Gabriel, Abram, GS-NB (F)

Garcia, Luis, Assoc. Dean, GS-C (A)

Goodman, Robert, SEBS Dean (A) - *Administrative Liaison*

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Hmelo-Silver, Cindy, GSE (F)

Holzemer, William, Nursing Dean (A)

Hudson, Judith, SAS-NB (F)

Iraninejad, Ommead, SMLR (S)

Jimenez, Leslie, SAS-NB (F)

Lawton, Michael, GS-NB (F)

Lewis, Jan, Associate Dean, NCAS (A)

Leyva, Luis, GSE (S)

Li, John, Engineering (F)

McKay, Heather, NB Staff

McLean, Paul, SAS-NB (F)

Pazzani, Michael, Sr. VP Research & Graduate & Professional Education - (*Non-Senator*)

Pritchett, Wendell, Camden Chancellor (A)

Roth, Gary, Dean, GS-N (A)

Spath, Andrew, GS-NB (S)

Stein, Gayle, NB Staff

Tancs, Linda, Alumni Association

White, Carolyne, GS-N (F)

Woolcott, Jaqueline, SC&I (S)

Zimmerman, Dean, SAS-NB (F)