

8. North Carolina A&T State University Traditional BSN Program.....Junius Gonzales

Situation: Update Committee on the status of the Traditional BSN Program and NCLEX passage rates.

Background: In April 2014, the BoG voted to suspend admission of students to the NC A&T School of Nursing's traditional BSN entry option and called for a full review. The review was conducted and some of the findings were: 1) NC A&T made several significant changes in administration, faculty, curriculum and entry requirements; and 2) Spring 2015 graduates benefited from these changes which resulted in an 89.3% NCLEX passing rate for first time test takers. BoG agreed to monitor NC A&T Nursing first time NCLEX pass rates in 2015, 2016, and 2017. If the annual pass rate is equal to or greater than 85% the program would be reinstated; at least 75% and below 85% suspension remains in effect and; if below 75% program termination would be initiated.

Assessment: NC A&T reports the May 2015 graduates exceeded the BOG benchmark of 85% by achieving an 89.3% pass rate. These students benefited from changes in curriculum, faculty, admission requirements, and policies; and they took the NCLEX within the recommended 45-days of program completion. However, the December 2014 and May 2014 graduates who took test in 2015 had a combined pass rate of 54%, (*compared to 89.3% for May 2015 graduates*). It is important to note that the December 2014 and May 2014 graduates did not experience the program modifications that the May 2015 graduates received because changes were made after their initial matriculation; and many of these students did not take the exam within the recommended 45 day time frame.

Additionally, extensive data analysis allowed NC A&T to identify and address two key areas that directly impact NCLEX pass rates: 1) Students who complete all course work on time without any failures are more likely to be successful on the NCLEX. NC A&T changed the progression policy to dismiss students after one failing grade. 2) Students who take the NCLEX within the nationally recommended 45-day post program completion testing period perform better. NC A&T implemented a plan to ensure students take the exam within this time frame. These changes along with the aforementioned program modifications allowed NC A&T to meet the BoG 85% threshold for the May 2015 graduates.

Action: This is for information only.