THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – FLINT
REGENTS COMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: Doctor of Anesthesia Practice Degree (DrAP) at the University of Michigan-Flint

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to grant the Doctor of Anesthesia Practice Degree through the School of Health Professions and Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2011

The School of Health Professions and Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint proposes to offer a Doctor of Anesthesia Practice (DrAP) degree. The proposed graduate program is designed to address the needs of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) for post professional advanced education. Doctoral degrees conferred in DrAP are intended to further prepare CRNAs for advanced practice encompassing a broad range of positions within the healthcare field.

The 2008 comprehensive needs assessment of practicing CRNAs in Michigan documents the need for this proposed graduate degree. The proposed program is intended to provide post-masters educational opportunity for CRNAs to prepare for leadership positions in a variety of aspects of the profession of nurse anesthesia. The profession of nurse anesthesia encompasses more than the actual administration of anesthesia to patients. CRNAs engaged in research, education, and administration are recognized as being engaged in the practice of anesthesia. Graduates will be better prepared to further develop the roles that CRNAs fill – within increasingly complex systems of healthcare delivery, in businesses involving anesthesia, in meeting the anesthesia needs of diverse populations, and in preparing the next generation of CRNAs who will be educated in the clinical doctorate framework.

The primary audience are CRNAs who already have an MS or MSN degree as their anesthesia entry-to-practice degree or if they completed the MS or MSN after their original anesthesia entry-to practice BS degree of an earlier era. The online format proposed for this program will provide maximum access to CRNAs who would be otherwise unable to attend an on-campus program and would be accessible to students who may not be physically located within our geographic service area.

The proposed program consists of 32 semester credit hours of graduate work, including a research/capstone practicum and opportunities to select elective courses. The designed curriculum was based upon expected competencies articulated in the Report of the Doctoral Preparation Taskforce to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in 2007 and on the Standards for Practice-Oriented Degrees as published by the COA, and incorporates sound pedagogy with maximum flexibility to meet individualized professional needs of its students. In addition, it includes nine hours of elective courses from a variety of health-profession related fields of study selected by the student. The University of Michigan-Flint has extensive experience in distance education with our other accredited programs such as Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree (DNP), Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees with the support of the Office of Extended Learning.

Nationally, there are no available enrollment figures for CRNAs in similar programs due to the limited number of accredited programs across the country. Several extensive surveys have been conducted to explore the need and desire of CRNAs to pursue the DrAP degree. Employment opportunities for CRNAs are excellent and typically, masters graduates have multiple job offers prior to graduation and remain fully employed after graduation. Along with meeting an important need, anticipated enrollment

will further enhance the growing number of graduate programs and graduate students at the University of Michigan-Flint.

The proposed Doctor of Anesthesia Practice (DrAP) degree has been thoroughly reviewed and supported by the UM-Flint Department of Health Sciences and Administration, School of Health Professions and Studies, Graduate Programs, Academic Affairs Advisory Committee, Chancellor's Advisory Committee for Budget and Strategic Planning, Academic Assessment Committee, the provost and chancellor. The program will be implemented upon approval from the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan, the Higher Learning Commission, the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs (COA), and pending the Board of Regents approval.
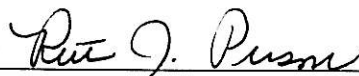
Based upon the extensive research and plans that have been completed, the University of Michigan-Flint requests approval to grant the Doctor of Anesthesia Practice Degree (DrAP) through the School of Health Professions and Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint, effective January 1, 2011.

Recommended by: Recommendation endorsed by:

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Vahid Lotfi, Interim Provost and   Ruth J. Person, Chancellor
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs   University of Michigan-Flint

May 2010