UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) at the University of
                           Michigan - Flint

ACTION REQUEST: Approval to grant the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP)
                           Degree through the School of Health Professions and Studies at the
                           University of Michigan-Flint and to change the title of existing Doctorate
                           of Anesthesia Practice (DrAP) degree to Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia
                           Practice (DNAP).

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2018

The School of Health Professions and Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint proposes to convert its existing Master of Science (MS) in Anesthesia Program to the clinical doctorate level, awarding a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree. This change is required to comply with January 1, 2015 revised Accreditation Standards set forth by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA). These standards state, "Students accepted into accredited entry-level programs on or after January 1, 2022 must graduate with doctoral degrees." The School of Health Professions and Studies also proposes to change the title of its current Doctor of Anesthesia Practice (DrAP) to the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) to be consistent with the stated accreditation requirements.

The national healthcare environment is experiencing a rapid change, partly impacted by evolving technological advancements as well as by changing needs and complexities of an aging population. Today's educators are obliged to produce medical providers who possess a broader scope of knowledge and skills. The 2015 COA Standards ensure anesthesia program graduates will enter practice with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundation necessary to deliver safe anesthetic care in addition to the leadership skills needed to assume expanded roles within the healthcare system. COA Standards require a sequentially integrated curriculum, comprised of at least three years of full-time study that meets specifically delineated curriculum courses and course content requirements. Additionally, COA standards mandate the curriculum be designed to award a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree. The proposed doctoral program, offered in partnership with the Hurley Medical Center, seeks to award a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice Degree and to convert the title of the existing Doctor of Anesthesia Practice (DrAP) completion program to DNAP.

The proposed Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degree program has the necessary physical, faculty, financial and support resources to meet the revised COA Standards. In addition to allowing for ongoing accreditation, transitioning to the practice doctorate level will allow the program to prepare anesthesia practitioners who are well-prepared to develop new and innovative approaches to clinical practice, implement quality improvement initiatives, translate research into best practices, and focus on improving patient outcomes. Graduates of the doctoral level program will be equipped to accept leadership roles in healthcare and education in addition to providing excellent clinical anesthesia care and meeting workforce needs.

The proposed Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degree has been thoroughly reviewed and supported by the School of Health Professions and Studies, the Graduate Board, the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee, the provost, and the chancellor. The program will be implemented upon approval from the Michigan Association of State Universities (formerly Presidents Council), the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), and pending the Board of Regents approval.
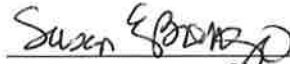
Based upon the extensive research and plans that have been undertaken, the University of Michigan-Flint requests approval to grant the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree through the School of Health Professions and Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint, effective January 2018.

RECOMMENDED BY:

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:

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Douglas G. Knerr, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

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Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

July 2017