

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY™

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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March 26, 2010

Received On

MAR 29 2010

Workforce Development
Career Technical Education

Charles Kater
Director of Technical Programs & Curriculum
Kansas Board of Regents
1000 SW Jackson Street, Ste 520
Topeka, KS 66612-1368

Dear Mr. Kater:

This letter serves as an official opposition raised by Emporia State University regarding the intent filed by Flint Hills Technical College (FHTC) to offer a new associate degree in nursing that would result in the preparation of registered nurses. I have outlined several concerns associated with the FHTC request below. These concerns were shared in a face to face meeting involving the ESU Provost, Dean Hollenbeck (President FHTC), and Steve Loewen (Dean of Instructional Services) early last fall.

1. Program Need

The Kansas Association of colleges of Nursing indicate there is a declining need for nurses both in the state of Kansas and nationally. Currently there are 33 programs in Kansas (13 baccalaureate and 20 associate degree) that prepare Registered Nurses.

2. Program Duplication

Emporia State University currently offers a baccalaureate registered nurse program. The proposed FHTC program will also prepare registered nurses. This duplication is within city limits so availability of a registered nurse preparation program locally is not an issue.

3. Clinical Facilities

The Newman Division of Nursing currently uses Newman Regional Health and approximately 20 additional clinical sites to fulfill all of the experiential opportunities that must be provided to candidates enrolled in the registered nurse program. Seven of the nine sites FHTC lists as potential clinical sites are sites already used by ESU. The lack of a significant number of clinical sites proximal to Emporia and the low patient census at many of these sites has the potential to create significant challenge for students to complete all required clinical experiences required for licensure.

4. Negative Impact on the Newman Division of Nursing Program

It is anticipated that initiation of an associate degree registered nursing program at FHTC will have a negative impact on the number of individuals who pursue the baccalaureate registered nurse program of study at ESU.

5. Qualified Faculty

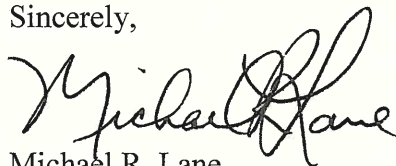
Each nurse faculty member assigned responsibility for a course must hold a graduate degree, preferably in the clinical area being taught or have a plan projecting completion of a graduate degree. Two registered nursing programs in Emporia will dilute the pool of qualified faculty available to both the ESU program and the proposed program at FHTC. The nursing faculty in the ESU are fully qualified.

6. Future Criteria

The professional nursing organizations are calling for all registered nurses to have a BSN degree within the next decade as the entry criteria for joining the profession. Does FHTC have a plan in place to anticipate this change should it become the benchmark for admission to the nursing profession for registered nurses?

Thank you for the opportunity to express opposition to the FHTC Associate of Nursing Degree proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Lane", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael R. Lane
President

c: Dr. Dean Hollenbeck
Dr. Steve Loewen