

Valdosta State University  
College of Nursing

Dean's Notes



January 2011

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*A comment on the times,*

Just about every decision we make and every action we take these next few years will be driven by budget considerations and those priorities identified in the recent publications of the Institute of Medicine's Report on nursing education and the Carnegie Study on the need for changes to nursing education. I encourage all faculty to review these documents - to make them part of your library of references so that you will have first hand knowledge of the statements, data and conclusions derived that are propelling us into the future. One thing is for certain, nothing will ever be the same again, and before we decide on how to meet those mandates for 80% BSN-prepared workforce and doubling the number of nurses with doctorates by 2020, let's think about why. I look forward to the discussions, debates and spirited dialog we'll be having in deciding best ways to accomplish our goals in time of economic challenge. My presentation on the budget at this month's CONFO meeting, will illustrate the severe impact the state revenue decline has had on VSU, and the amazing resilience and fortitude our planning has afforded us! As always, your feedback and ideas are not only welcome, but needed in order for us to succeed - tell me what you know!

**STATUS of the COLLEGE**

- The proposals for the CNL Track and the revisions to the Adult Health NP curriculum have been forwarded to the University Graduate Council - thanks to Dr. Benton and Dr. Whyte for their final editing!
- The search for a full time 12 month non-tenure track faculty has been initiated. If you have any referrals to this committee please contact Dr. Benton, Committee Chair. Be looking for dates in March for the applicant interviews and presentations.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

1. Identifying ways to be more cost-efficient are always important, but are now a priority.
  - a. Please contact members of the Technology Advisory Group with your recommendations regarding use of simulation equipment and other teaching/learning technologies, including software. We'll be making some hard choices in the near future.
  - b. I have allocated some of the indirect funding from our grants to augment our faculty travel resources. A reminder, any faculty is welcome to come to any Budget Advisory Committee meeting.

2. Please update your faculty credentials and upload syllabi at the SACS portal. Instructions were sent to you via email by Dr. Jane Kinney on January 21, 2011 - please refer.

## QUALITY

1. Kudos to **Dr. Melissa Benton** and KSPE faculty, whose manuscript, "Short Term Effects of Resistance Training Frequency on Body Composition and Strength in Middle-Aged Women" has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Strength and Conditioning.
2. A new university policy on **academic integrity** is currently being developed, which will include the addition of a faculty review committee at the university level. I encourage all faculty to keep in touch with your faculty senators and provide them feedback on any emerging policies.
3. Congratulations to **Mr. Myron Faircloth**, who has been invited to participate in a legislative webinar by the GNA Legislative Director, **Ms. Judy Malachowski**.
4. Thanks to **Ms. Michelle Ritter**, who represented the CON at the recent VSU Job Fair.

## PERFORMANCE

1. The NCLEX Examination results have been forwarded to us from the GBON; VSU's overall rate for 2010 is **86.90**. I am expecting a GBON site visit this year so we're not only getting things in order for CCNE but the GBON as well. I really appreciate everyone's assistance in getting documents to us!

## POLICY UPDATES

1. A reminder about appropriate **credentialing for students in clinical coursework**; students must have up to date immunizations, current liability insurance and CPR certification. Students receive receipts when submitting credentials in administrative suite, so if for any reason the database has an error, the student just needs to show you their receipt. Let me know how we can help. Mr. Shirlock is reviewing new software that may be able to assist us in tracking these data. I encourage you to come for the demonstration when scheduled.
2. If you are using **Safe Assign**, a plagiarism prevention software tool, in your courses, please make sure you access the information site at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/UsingSafeAssign.shtml> to find out how to access and have this activated for your course, and to access the online orientation. Please let us know your experience with this product!
3. Reminder - **Travel Related Reminders**:
  - a. While we are not currently using the PeopleSoft TAUTH for travel, the expenses module to be filed when returning from professional travel is accessed at: <https://dfsfineapps.gafirst.usg.edu/psp/F89PRD/FINEAPPS/FINSS/?cmd=logi>

- b. **Travel authorization is required in advance** of travel unless you have standing authorization for travel, which is applicable only to travel within the state of Georgia.
  - c. The **car cost/flight comparison is required** for every traveler, regardless of the source of the funding for the travel.
- 4. **Effective immediately**, all students placed at Tift Regional Medical Center will be required to submit a copy of their immunization and TB records at the beginning of their clinical rotations.
- 5. **Master calendar and academic schedule**
  - a. Any requests for courses or rooms for the **academic schedule** for summer and fall 2011 should be sent to me now. In consideration of the need to secure classrooms and determine feasible offerings for RN-BSN and MSN coursework, we may not be able to make last minute changes.
    - i. The absolute deadline for any changes to the summer schedule are due by Monday, January 28.
    - ii. Requests for assignments (assume the new curricula for RN's, NP and CNL will be in place by fall 2011) are needed by **Friday, February 4.**
  - b. Please submit any dates for events for the **summer 2011 master calendar** for by **March 1, 2011.**
  - c. Requests for dates for the fall/spring 2011-2012 calendar should be submitted by **May 1, 2011**, especially for any campus events such as STT Induction or workshops.
  - d. Please review the calendar for ATI testing dates and times and let us know of any needed changes as soon as possible. Once the calendar is posted for students I may not be able to change.
- 6. **Student Permission Form** for the retention of student work (needed for our CCNE Self Study) is available on the faculty website. Please use in conjunction when retaining examples of student work. We will need samples of student work in every course in BSN, RN-BSN and MSN programs.
- 7. *In consideration of the growing demands for transcript review, analysis and academic advising for students who have not applied to VSU, a **transcript review fee** is now in effect. If a student who does not have a VSU ID number requests a transcript review and advising prior to application to VSU, they will be asked to submit the transcript (whether hard copy or electronic copy) to Ms. Cecilia Furey, Senior Secretary, along with a money order for \$25.00 (no cash, no checks, no credit cards) made out to the CON Foundation Nursing Excellence Fund. Upon receipt the transcript will be forwarded to the appropriate faculty for review.*

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. **Lowndes County Partnership for Health Affairs of the Decade - Saturday, January 29**

2. **GANE** (Georgia Association for Nursing Education) Annual Education Conference February 17-19, 2011 in Savannah.
3. **QSEN** Institutes: January through November 2011; check website for more information.
4. **STTI** Nursing Research Congress and World Academy of Nursing Science Conference, July 11-15, 2011, Cancun Mexico.
5. **STTI** 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention October 29-November 2, 2011 Dallas Texas. (abstracts due January 26, 2011)
6. **Evidence-Based Practice Conference** at MCG (Augusta, GA) January 22, 2011
7. **Natural Standard Research Collaboration** academic rotations for students are available through distance learning. For more information, please contact Linda Thelen, Natural Standard Research Collaboration at (617) 591-3301 or email [linda@naturalstandard.com](mailto:linda@naturalstandard.com)
8. **Global Health & Innovation Conference**, Yale University, New Haven CT, April 16-17, 2011. Registration raises after January - <http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference>
9. **STT Research Day** April 15, 2011

**REMINDERS for STUDENTS** (faculty please remind):

- Consult the master calendar and website often; convocation and course orientation are held every term and are mandatory events for students.
- Withdrawals are now limited - be sure to read the policy
- Credentials for clinical are mandatory - any student without proper documentation indicating they have handed in current TB, Immunizations, Liability Insur., Criminal Background Check, and/or Drug Screen, as needed, may not attend clinical and will be evaluated accordingly (that means that two absences may constitute a failure). Faculty are responsible for making sure they are not allowing any students without proper credentials in clinical sites.
- Planning for May commencement has begun - ideas are welcome!

**A NOTE ABOUT CLASS CANCELLATION**

Each faculty is empowered to use their best judgment regarding the necessity of canceling a class due to extenuating circumstances such as inclement weather. Such closings are warranted when a faculty is unable to get to class because of conditions where they live, or in the case when a majority of students are unable to get to campus due to conditions where they live. In addition, there may be times when the designated clinical location for one group is open and another is closed due to weather or emergency events at the clinical site. Additionally, there may be times when inclement weather or an emergency closes the university, but students at remote clinical sites are able to continue the clinical day uninterrupted because those conditions are not occurring at that site.

**Procedures:** You should initiate a phone tree to contact students regarding individual class cancellations. **Please do not post signs in Martin Hall.** This tends to send the message that the entire college is closed, confusing and causing anxiety among the students. Any postings should be done by the administrative staff and the Dean and the Associate Dean need to be informed in case there are questions from students or from central administration.

**The only time the College of Nursing is closed is when the university is officially closed, or by direction of the Dean.**

### The Dean's Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Traveling to</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1/31/11	Macon, GA	GBON	Stephen Shirlock
2/4/11	Atlanta, GA	Georgia Nursing Summit	Stephen Shirlock
3/16-18/11	Macon, GA	GBON	On call
3/19-22/11	Washington, DC	AACN Spring Meeting	Linda Floyd and Maria Whyte
3/31-4/1/11	Vicksburg, MS	Consultation	Stephen Shirlock
5/11-13/11	Macon, GA	GBON	Linda Floyd