Nursing Student Advisory Council

What is the Nursing Student Advisory Council?
The Nursing Student Advisory Council was established in Spring 2011. It provides an official means for student participation in Department of Nursing governance:

- to provide feedback to faculty
- for accurate information to student representatives for sharing with the larger student body
- for collaborative problem solving of student concerns

The Rochester and Winona campuses will each have a Nursing Student Advisory Council to represent undergraduate programs.

The group on each campus will include up to 8 students and up to 4 faculty members.

Each group will meet twice each year.

The Nursing Student Advisory Council can provide input and feedback, but does not have the authority to make decisions or policy.

Fall Meetings

Rochester—Generic BS

Fall meetings held on November 17 & 24, 2014

Main Topics Discussed:

- Review of student governance basics

Dean McBreen will attend a Spring student meeting in Rochester

Feedback from Senior students:

- Students favor continuing the Monday/Thursday schedule
- Discussion of Community Sites: Students enjoy the experience, would like more information before choosing site in Term 2, perhaps through a presentation from senior students, and would like fewer papers.
- EBP and APA: Students suggest more prep

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Welcome New Faculty and Staff

New Department Chair
Dr. Martha Scheckel

Winona Campus
Jennifer Timm
Ann Lubinski, Temp. Admin. Assistant
• Would prefer to have all books bundled.
• Enjoy having same topics in multiple classes at the same time.
• Suggest some test-outs earlier in N341.
• Work on collaboration of instructors in same course for consistency in expectations, content delivery and grading.

**Winona—Generic BS**

Fall meeting held on November 21, 2014

Main Topics Discussed:

Dean William McBreen attended to discuss:

• DEU as an example of changing practices in education. Students like being involved for a full shift.
• Differential tuition of $35 per credit for nursing credits is being used to improve services to students in:
  • Simulation, including upgrades to Winona campus lab in summer 2013 and 2014. Similar improvements are planned for Rochester.
  • More support for pre-nursing students.
  • Clinical coordination, including an adjunct coordinator and clinical site coordination.

• Differential tuition cannot be used to hire additional faculty.
• Students indicated support for differential tuition.

Students supported the continued use of handouts developed by student advisory to help Term 1 students in adjusting to resources.

Discussion of admission to the major: Admissions are currently closed to transfer students. Students supported maintaining the current minimum GPA of 3.3 for application to the major.

Students like weekend clinicals for pediatrics due to the opportunity to care for the same patients on Sat. and Sun. They would like more weekend options.

**ATI:**

• ATI info during Term 1 orientation is appreciated, but students would like information again after about 3 or 4 weeks
• Students report using ATI resources more each term

Discussion of ATI Virtual Tutor vs. live review for NCLEX. Faculty continue to provide more support for NCLEX success through remediation and explanations of methods for review of content.

**La Crescent—RN to BS Completion**

Meeting held November 20, 2014

Discussion focused on clinicals and assignments:

• Students expressed concerns about the community assessment assignment proposed for N465 in Spring 2015: whether they would get enough clinical hours from one project and uneven numbers of students working on different projects. Faculty agreed to consider other assignment options.

• Students expressed a concern that they did not clearly understand the expectations for clinicals in N475. Faculty agreed to take more steps to communicate about clinical expectations.

• Students supported continuing Public Health logs, quizzes and projects.

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**Honors in Nursing**

Congratulations to the following Fall 2014 graduates who earned Honors in Nursing:

Amanda Laudenbach & Lindsey Isaacson

Courtney Leland & Nicole Ratzlaff
Impact of a stand-alone gerontological nursing course on undergraduate nursing student’s perceptions of aging and career intentions.

George N. Hirschboeck & Alex P. Webster
Palliative Care Knowledge and Self-Efficacy within a Baccalaureate Nursing Program: Phase One

Nicole Buerman & Rachel Eisen
Childhood Obesity
Innovation Symposium

The inaugural Innovation Symposium was held on October 10, 2014 for 300 generic baccalaureate nursing majors. The symposium theme was Celebrate Growing Together as Professionals: Leadership. Students heard the keynote address from Dr. Bonnie Clipper, '87 graduate, DNP, VP & CNO, Medical Center of the Rockies. Dr. Clipper graciously provided funding and impetus for the symposium as a way to give back to Winona State and the Department of Nursing.

Graduate students in nursing facilitated a session on leadership and role development. Students also received an introduction to the Insights Tool and personality “colors” and had the opportunity to discuss application of color results in the professional world.

Selected comments from students:

“I really enjoyed the Insights/color information. It really opened my eyes up to how everybody is different and made me understand more of why people are the way they are. I think it will help me in the long run to work with other leaders and coworkers.”

“For me it was being able to hear about past graduate students’ paths and what got them to where they are today. I feel like some of the best advice we are going to get as students will not come from a textbook but rather from hearing others’ stories and tips.”

“We all have different personalities and we all perceive situations differently. I hope to adjust myself that I can meet people where they are at and utilize their strengths.

“The symposium has made me look into grad school a little more than I was previously.”

Did you know?

The RN to BS Completion program continues to grow. There are now more students enrolled in RN to BS Completion (more than 350) than in the traditional BS in Nursing (about 300).

RN to BS courses are taught in Rochester, La Crescent and Austin.
NCLEX News

Your NCLEX preparation is more important than ever!

In 2013, the NCLEX-RN passing standard was increased significantly, and first-time NCLEX pass rates declined at Winona State and for nursing schools across the nation. The passing standard was changed in response to the changing health care environment, and in order to ensure that new RNs can demonstrate the knowledge they will need to care for increasingly acute patients.

Faculty are actively working to devise strategies to help increase your NCLEX success, such as the new remediation policy. Remediation is designed to help students to focus and study content areas and concepts missed on examinations.

You can also be strategic in beginning your preparation for NCLEX now!

- Be sure to use the practice questions in your course materials.
- Use your ATI assessment results and focused reviews to identify areas for additional study. As you approach graduation, your results can help you to create your study plan for NCLEX.
- Faculty use NCLEX style questions on exams in all courses, to give you practice in applying what you have learned.
- In Term 4 and following graduation, you will have access to the Virtual Tutor through ATI to help you prepare for the NCLEX! RN students who used Virtual-ATI™ and received a Green Light to take NCLEX from their ATI coach had a 95% pass rate.
- If you struggle with test anxiety, now is the time to work on self-care strategies. Counseling may also be helpful.

By using the resources that are available to you and preparing carefully and thoroughly, you can be successful!

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Nursing students and faculty participate in Sustainability Challenge

Winona campus nursing students and faculty teams for the recent Sustainability Challenge finished in second and third place!

Teams earned points for environmentally conscious practices such as:

- Use washable dishes only
- Carpool to work, school or errands
- Bike/walk to work, school or errands
- Unplug at least three appliances when not in use
- Turn off lights in bedroom and kitchen when not in use
- Use a reusable bottle for water, sports drink, energy drink, soda, etc.
- Non smoking for the day, or not leaving any cigarette butts on the ground
- Use baking soda or vinegar for cleaning
- Wash clothes in cold water
- Eat one meatless meal
- Read an article or watch a video about sustainability
- Initiate a new environmentally friendly change at home or school
- Complete an Eco Warrior module or attend a sustainability programming event
- Pick up a piece of trash outside and recycle it or toss it in the trash
Finland Travel Study to be Explored

Professor Susan Zeller has been contacted by nursing faculty at the University of Tampere, Finland about having WSU nursing students visit their nursing programs. Professor Zeller has received an exploratory grant to investigate this exciting possibility, and hopes to have a travel study planned for May 2016 for students who have completed Term 3 or 4.

Congratulations to
George Hirschboeck
Outstanding Nursing Student,
Fall 2014

Have a joyful and safe
Winter Break!