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Developing a Culture of Scholarship in the School of Nursing

Problem / Opportunity Statement *

This quality initiative focuses on a faculty-centric program that will examine and develop a new model of scholarship for faculty in the School of Nursing. A robust culture of scholarship will be achieved through active engagement by School Of Nursing faculty to enhance the breadth and depth of scholarly activities.

Select one quality initiative sub-theme. *

Faculty Transitions

Sub-theme description. *

Nursing is a practice-focused discipline. With the emphasis on practice, faculty are left with little time to engage in a body of scholarly work. Therefore, a goal of the School of Nursing is to build a more robust scholarship culture with the context of our mission. To build this culture, we must use a systematic approach to: a) identify current barriers in developing a program of scholarship, b) evaluate the existing strengths of our faculty and our academic programs related to scholarship, and c) design a prototype model of practice-focused scholarship. The end product of this quality initiative would be a program of scholarship available to all faculty in the School of Nursing that would capitalize on the individual and collective strengths of the faculty within the School of Nursing as well as colleagues across the university. In addition, key community partners could and should play a significant role in helping shape and define scholarly opportunities. Faculty understand that the key to a successful DNP program rests on the scholarship endeavors of each and every faculty member. Initiating this shift from practice-focused faculty to scholarship-focused faculty in the School of Nursing dovetails perfectly into the campus-wide quality initiative.

Benefits *

Direct and measurable outcomes from this quality initiative focusing on building and sustaining a robust culture of scholarship include:

- Increase in the number of faculty publications from School of Nursing faculty.
- Increase in the number of paper/podium presentations from School of Nursing faculty.
- Increased opportunities to engage in scholarly interdisciplinary activities with faculty from all of the major units on the campus (School of Applied Studies, School of Business, College of Arts and Sciences) as well as with faculty from the Washburn Technical Institute.
- Increased leadership opportunities with key community stakeholders.

An indirect outcome but equally important will be the potential for increasing faculty satisfaction with their employment in the School of Nursing. Supporting faculty through the process of advancing their skill set to include more scholarly output should have a significant impact on the perception of their job satisfaction. In addition, by providing faculty the opportunity for ownership in how a practice-focused program of scholarship is designed, faculty will experience first-hand the impact of their leadership on reaching this goal.

Scope *

The charge for the School of Nursing is to design a prototype model of scholarship that fits with the mission and vision of the school and the university. Therefore the initial scope of this quality initiative will be contained within the School of Nursing. However, the long-term goal of this quality initiative is to engage faculty colleagues on the campus to participate in interdisciplinary scholarly projects. Hence the nature of this model may include new mechanisms for incentivizing scholarship, modifying the mechanisms for promotion and tenure for practice-based disciplines on campus, and create new workload equations that identify and quantify the scholarship requirements unique to practice-based units on the campus.

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