

Date: May 2, 2022

To: Jon Anderson, Provost & Vice President, Academic Affairs

CC: Camille Thomas, Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences
Jean Boreen, Dean, College of Humanities & Social Sciences
Mary Pearson Dean, School of Business/Associate Professor, Accounting
Nathan McNamee MBA Director/Assistant Professor, Finance
Selwyn Layton, Department Chair, Associate Professor of Nursing

From: Mark Siemon, Assistant Professor of Nursing

Subject: Provost Fellow 2021-22 Report

I wanted to thank you, Dean Pearson, and Dr. McNamee for providing me with the opportunity to explore collaborate programs between the Department of Nursing and the Masters in Business Administration Program as a Provost Fellow.

My primary goal for the Provost Fellow program was to learn as much as I could about how the SUU MBA program has managed the successful transition to an online format, and how the DON might be able to work with the MBA program to develop future healthcare leaders through a Masters of Science in Leadership program.

My initial meetings with Dean Pearson and Dr. McNamee resulted in the development of an R401 proposal for the MSN in Leadership that includes three MBA and Business courses (i.e., BUS 6000, MGMT 6100, & HCA 6100). Including these three courses in the MSN in Leadership program will decrease the number of courses that the DON needs to develop and, more importantly, provide an opportunity for graduate nursing students to interact with MBA students during the MSN in Leadership program

I believe the MSN students will benefit by being enrolled in MBA courses and learning with MBA students as part of these courses. Understanding the fundamentals of business and management is a requirement for nurse leaders. Additionally, I hope that MSN students will be able to provide insight into healthcare from a nursing perspective, which is often missing in many MBA and Healthcare Administration programs.

Dr. McNamee and I also discussed the development of a dual MBA/MSN degree that would provide nurses with a more extensive education in business administration. The course requirements for the MBA/MSN dual degree are still being negotiated, and I hope to have a proposal ready for review by the Deans and faculty of both departments by Fall 2022.

During the Provost Fellow lunch in January, we were challenged to go beyond our initial proposal and reach out to another department that we felt might create some new collaborations. I contacted Jean Boreen, Dean, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, and we met to discuss how the DON could collaborate on interprofessional

education with CHSS Departments. Among the many possibilities for collaboration, we discussed developing a dual MPA/MSN degree program. Dean Boreen introduced me to MPA Program Director Donna Handley, and we met to discuss an MPA/MSN dual degree. The biggest obstacle for an MPA/MSN dual degree would be the different course schedules, 7 weeks versus 14 weeks, but this could be overcome by having nursing students complete the required MSN courses first and transitioning to the MPA courses in the second year. Discussion on combining some courses (e.g., ethics, capstone) and developing a proposal for the MPA/MSN are ongoing.

Overall, I feel my time as a Provost Fellow during the past two semesters has provided me with a better understanding of different colleges and departments at SUU, and how the Department of Nursing may be able to collaborate in educating future health care professionals and others who are critical to improving the health and wellness of residents in Utah and the United States, as well as globally.

I hope to continue to work to develop additional opportunities for Interprofessional Education (IPE) at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Many college and university health profession programs have worked to integrate IPE into their programs. However, a gap remains in the inclusion of programs and disciplines like business, communications, and social work, that directly impact the health and wellness of populations. Barriers to developing IPE opportunities can be overcome through more programs like the Provost Fellow to allow faculty to meet and exchange ideas.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the Provost Fellow 2021-22 cohort. I look forward to working with you and others at SUU to develop interprofessional education to improve the skills and ability of our graduates to collaborate across disciplines and professions to improve health and health care in the future.