

UTAH COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM

28 January 2015

ITEM: I.D

TOPIC: Review of UCAT President Letter to Campuses Regarding Nursing Program Partnerships

BACKGROUND

Based on the review and discussions of budget-related enrollment reporting for nursing program partnerships outlined in the previous agenda items, President Brems has drafted a letter to all campus presidents outlining policy provisions and clarifying budgeting and reporting processes with respect to the partnerships. A copy of the letter will be provided prior to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Information/discussion only.

Attachments:

Draft Letter to Campus Presidents Regarding Nursing Partnerships





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Enrollment Reporting for Registered Nursing Program Partnerships

UCAT Campus Presidents,

We are proud of the Practical Nursing certificate programs that are provided by several of our campuses. They fill an important need in their regions as they prepare students for critical and highly technical jobs in the healthcare industry, with high enrollment, completion, licensure, and placement rates. Many of the campuses have further enhanced the opportunities for their Practical Nursing students and employers by engaging other institutions in partnerships to provide Registered Nursing associate degree programs. These partnerships are excellent arrangements which should be continued and expanded as necessary.

In a recent review of DATC enrollment data, questions were raised regarding the reporting of Registered Nursing enrollments for budget-related membership hours if a campus has made a significant budget contribution to such a partnership. UCAT Policy 201.5.6 (Membership Hours Reporting/Budget-Related Membership Hours) stipulates that “the campus must make an appreciable resource contribution to the course/program” as one of the criteria for qualifying as budget-related. However, 201.5.2 restricts budget-related membership hours to programs approved in accordance with Policy 200, which provides that campus programs prepare for “occupations that generally do not require an associate or more advanced degree” (200.6.2).

Utah Statute prohibits UCAT campuses from offering credit or associate degrees (UCA 53B-2a-106(3) and (4); 53B-2a-104(3)). Since Registered Nursing enrollments are in credit-granting and associate degree programs provided by the partner institution, they do not qualify as programs for which the legislature appropriates state budget funds to UCAT campuses.

We have reviewed the enrollment question and the applicable policies and statutes with campus executives, campus board leadership, and UCAT Board of Trustees leadership. After careful consideration, we have concluded that with nursing program partnerships, all enrollment statistics for Practical Nursing programs should be reported by the participating campus as budget-related membership hours to UCAT only, consistent with UCAT policies. All enrollment statistics for Registered Nursing programs should be reported by the participating institution as budget-related FTEs to USHE only, consistent with USHE policies. Appropriated UCAT campus funds should not be used to fund the Registered Nursing portion of instruction. Any use of campus budget funds beyond those directly related to the provision of Practical Nursing instruction should be limited to related partnership costs after review by the UCAT President.

Robert O. Brems
President