



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

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DATE: January 4, 2010 for January 12, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 4

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and School of Graduate Studies: Proposed Graduate Diploma in Anesthesia Care (GDipNPAC) for the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Field.**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee of Academic Policy and Programs approves diploma programs which require completion of a graduate degree for admission and admit applicants as University of Toronto students that receive a diploma at Convocation (category 3(a) as defined in the *Policy on Diploma and Certificate Programs*<sup>1</sup>).

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing is proposing the Graduate Diploma in Anesthesia Care. The diploma will be offered in two formats: as a concurrent diploma for students in the MN (NP Field) program and as a post master diploma for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) who have already completed their MN (NP Field).

The post-nominal GDipNPAC signifies the graduate nature of the diploma. The program aims to provide the knowledge and skill necessary for the continuum of anesthesia care including pre-operative, peri-operative, post-operative, and ambulatory care. The program offers options focusing on either the adult or child. The overall aim is to prepare NPs for a key role in health service delivery, improving access to anesthesia care services and health care for Ontarians. Completion of either diploma format will build on the capacity of currently registered RN NPs, and graduates will be employed in a number of capacities, including anesthesia care, palliative care, and pain teams.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Policies/Policy/diplomas.html>

Both the concurrent and post-master diploma formats require the same courses that provide the theoretical and research scholarship and immersion in clinical practice required for this specialization. The concurrent diploma allows MN (NP Field) students to pursue the GDipNPAC at the same time as their degree program. Its length is three sessions of full-time study with two sessions embedded within the MN NP Field and one additional session. The post master diploma has a program length of three sessions of full-time study.

The proposed diploma in Anesthesia Care is the first program of its kind in Canada and enables the Faculty to advance its leadership role in Nurse Practitioner education in Canada and beyond. Current and anticipated gaps in service and the creation of Anesthesia Care Teams (ACT) by the government's HealthForceOntario Health Human Resource Strategy support the collaborative practice model that includes NPs with Diplomas in Anesthesia Care. Completion of the GDipNPAC will allow graduates to be employed in a number of capacities, including anesthesia care, palliative care, and pain teams.

As is described in the proposal, the Faculty has consulted extensively both within the University and externally in the development of the proposed diploma. The Chair of the Department of Anesthesia, Faculty of Medicine, has been engaged in consultation and the Department has provided support on program development and content expertise.

The proposal was approved by the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing Council on November 9, 2009 and the School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council on November 17, 2009.

#### **FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no resource implications for the University's operating budget resulting from this proposal. The financial plan has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty and by the Vice-Provost Academic Operations Office. The proposal does not involve significant new academic directions or anticipated significant new directions for the Faculty

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves:

THAT the proposed Graduate Diploma Program in Anesthesia Care, GDipNPAC, as described in the attached proposal, be approved, with enrolment commencing January, 2011.