

## FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

October 22, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Implementation Authorization for a Ph.D. in Nursing at Florida International University

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### **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider implementation authorization for a Ph.D. in Nursing (CIP 50.1608) at Florida International University.

### **AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7 (d), Constitution of the State of Florida

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Among the arguments that the University makes for implementing a new Ph.D. in Nursing are (1) that a strong demand exists from local place-bound nurses, (2) the nearest public nursing program at FAU can be an extended commute, (3) tuition at the two private Miami-based programs is prohibitive for many potential students, and (4) the existing programs would have difficulty recruiting faculty to expand their doctoral enrollment capacity. Perhaps the strongest argument in support of implementing this program is the critical need for new Ph.D. qualified faculty to increase the capacity of Florida's undergraduate nursing programs, which are turning away more qualified students than they are able to admit. The University provided data that clearly shows a linkage between the increasing shortage of nursing faculty and the shortage of nurses in the workplace. Approximately 18 percent of the state's nursing faculty is expected to retire within the next year.

Expansion of the program will be made possible through requested enrollment growth funding and contract and grants dollars. Letters of support for the program were provided by several hospitals and healthcare associations in the Miami area as well as nationally. Dr. Carol J. Loveland-Cherry, Professor and Executive Associate Dean at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, was retained to review the proposal and provided a report that supports the implementation of this program. The FIU Board of Trustees approved the proposal at its March 12, 2003, meeting. If approved, the University plans to implement the program in Spring 2004.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Staff Analysis

**Facilitators / Presenters:** Chancellor Austin / R. E. LeMon  
FIU Representatives