

DATE: October 17, 2007

TO: Academic Affairs Committee, Academic Senate

FROM: Denise Wilson, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee
Kimberly Nance, Director of Graduate Studies

RE: Executive Summary -- Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Sequence in the
Master of Science in Nursing

This sequence prepares practitioners to focus on the diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic health conditions often found among older adults. This program addresses a shortage area that is already critical and continues to grow. Nationally, only 4% of all Advanced Practice Nurses have gerontological certification, and by 2030 one in five Americans will be 65 or older.

Based on the core curriculum of the Menonite College of Nursing's graduate program and the requirements of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the sequence requires 54 credits. In addition to core courses in Nursing (NUR 401, 403, 405, 407) and a new course in informatics (NUR 509), students in this specialty will take 9 new online courses (NUR 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449.) The sequence is expected to accept up to 24 new students each year. The start-up costs such as curriculum development, equipment, and library resources have been funded by a \$1.4 million grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health, and students will be eligible for federal funding under Title VIII of the Public Health Service. The new program will require one new faculty position and one new half-time technician; one existing faculty position will be reallocated.