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To: UCC Programs Committee
RE: Support for expansion of BSN program to OHIO Lancaster campus
Date: December 13, 2021

This letter serves as confirmation of the School of Nursing and College of Health Sciences and Professions (CHSP) affirmative support for expansion of the traditional, pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program to the Lancaster campus. The “program expansion to a secondary site” designation allows us to abbreviate the approval process with the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN). Once this program expansion is approved at Ohio University, notice/approval will follow to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Athens campus BSN program was awarded OBN full approval for the maximum period of five years in spring 2018 and will be due for the next review in spring 2023. The proposed Lancaster site would be included in this future OBN review. The BSN program was also fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in April 2021 for the maximum approval period of ten years. The proposed program expansion would be included in the next scheduled CCNE accreditation review in 2031. All current OHIO BSN program sites, as well as the proposed program expansion to the Lancaster campus, will utilize the same mission, philosophy, curriculum, policies and procedures across the school including minimal qualifications of instructors. Any changes to the BSN program apply to all offerings of the program regardless of location and faculty, staff, and administrators at all locations will be expected to participate in program review and accreditation when applicable.

Given the proximity to the Athens and Zanesville campuses, there is some possibility of internal competition for prospective BSN students. However, based on analysis of current student permanent addresses, this is a relatively small number of students, and the Athens campus routinely has accepted additional students beyond our projected enrollment in order to avoid turning away highly qualified students. CHSP will work with UCM to strategize specific marketing to the target high schools and community.

Initial analysis of the Lancaster campus region indicates a noted community need for a traditional BSN program. There is currently one other program offering a BSN in the area (Mt. Carmel College of Nursing) but the number of providers in the campus region is now considered inadequate to meet the demand for qualified BSN-prepared nurses by area healthcare systems. Regionally, hospitals such as Fairfield Medical Center have expressed support for the expansion of the OHIO BSN program. In addition to the regional support, the School of Nursing already has continuing clinical contracts with facilities in the Lancaster Campus region and beyond to support clinical sites for the proposed program expansion. During the 2022-23 academic year, the Associate Director of Nursing at Lancaster would facilitate development of additional clinical contracts related to all areas that would support nursing student learning across the lifespan in a variety of clinical settings in the community and region in addition to acute care facilities. Admission to the Lancaster campus pre-BSN major code (ND 1220) is anticipated for fall 2022 with admission to the BSN major (BS 1221) expected for fall 2023.

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