



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

November 12, 2010

Dr. Nancey France, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing, Mountain State University
PO Box 9003
Beckley, WV 25802-9003

Dear Dr. France:

The West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board), in session November 12, 2010 made the following determinations after a thorough review of all documents contained in the Board office:

1. MSU-SON has demonstrated:
 - a. deficiencies in compliance with WV19CSR1;
 - b. noncompliance with the school's stated philosophy/mission, program design, objectives/outcomes, and/or policies;
 - c. a failure to provide sufficient variety and number of clinical learning opportunities for students to achieve stated objectives/outcomes;
 - d. a failure to maintain at least 80% passing rate on the licensure examination by first-time candidates;
 - e. a failure of the program dean or director to document annually the currency of faculty licenses;
 - f. a failure to submit evidence that the nursing courses are supported by courses which meet the requirements of the governing organization, including biological, physical, and behavioral science courses;
 - g. a failure to base the selection and admission of students on established criteria, and be consistent in the recruitment and admission of students, and to determine student enrollment by the clinical and teaching facilities available and by the numbers of nursing faculty;
 - h. a failure to assure there were written agreements between the governing organization and the agency or agencies which provide clinical education experiences for students;
 - i. a failure to submit major changes in the nursing curriculum or the nursing education pattern to include changes in required cognate (general education) courses and implementing such prior to receiving Board approval;
 - j. a failure to obtain prior Board approval for an expansion of the program; and,

- k. other activities or situations to the Board that its program does not meet legal requirements and standards:
 - i. MSU-SON continues to suffer from the results of the lack of strong nursing administrative leadership with decision making authority for the nursing department. Decisions made by the Dean have not been supported by direct administrative support;
 - ii. Failed to provide necessary oversight to all educational and clinical sites;
 - iii. Submitted an inaccurate final transcript resulting in the issuance of a temporary permit to practice as a registered professional nurse to an unqualified applicant;
 - iv. Failed to maintain national accreditation standards;
 - v. Failed to provide adequate communication to students by failing to address student concerns in a timely manner such as transfer credit, financial assistance, graduation reports, and program information; and,
 - vi. Failed to maintain student records.

The practices of Mountain State University School of Nursing (MSU-SON) have been under review by the Board regarding failure to meet standards since 2004. These events have eroded the Board's confidence in the ability of the Program's administration to consistently adhere to the Board's requirements. To assure public safety through the regulation of nursing education, the Board, in an effort to allow MSU-SON to address and improve upon concerns, has previously approved curriculum and administrative changes and has provided various opportunities to correct deficiencies cited by the Board. In furtherance of its review, in October 2009, the Board also launched an investigation of all MSU-SON non-traditional programs.

Under the authority of WV Code §30-1- et seq. WV19CSR1.6.3 the Board moved to, and by unanimous decision voted to:

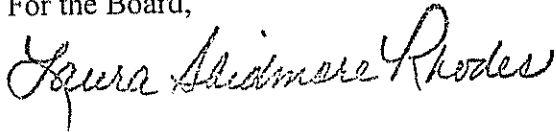
1. Deny approval of the proposed curriculum change and not entertain any other curriculum change request from MSU-SON until MSU-SON receives a letter from the Board stating otherwise;
2. Require that MSU-SON cease and desist all admissions to all nursing programs/pathways or any other program representing progression toward a nursing degree from this date (November 12, 2010) forward for a minimum of fifteen (15) months, and until MSU-SON has met requirements of the Board and restored its confidence in MSU-SON's ability to consistently comply with the word and spirit of WV §Code 30-7 et. Seq and WV19CSR1 without constant monitoring and requests for correction and clarification by the Board;

3. Place MSU-SON, including all of its cohorts, sites, agency agreements, and any other avenues whereby a person may obtain the requirements for initial licensure as a registered professional nurse on provisional accreditation and that, at minimum, MSU-SON shall:
 - a. Obtain and/or maintain full accreditation by a national nursing accrediting agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit schools of nursing and also approved by the Board;
 - b. Submit to the Board a roster of **all** students currently enrolled in **all** programs leading to initial licensure as a registered professional nurse indicating the education site, cohort number, program, date of entry, clinical rotation dates and clinical sites. This report shall indicate each individual's progression through the program showing what classes have been completed and what classes remain to be completed. This report shall be updated and sent to the Board quarterly, the first report to be provided to the Board by December 15, 2010;
 - c. Submit a report monthly indicating cancellation of classes and clinical rotations along with rationale for the cancellation and how the cancellation was addressed. The report shall be submitted by the 10th of each month for the previous month with the first report being due January 10, 2011;
 - d. Submit to the Board for approval a policy/standard that establishes the communication pattern and timelines for responses between faculty and administration, and students and administration by January 25, 2011;
 - e. Submit to the Board a policy for assuring adequate oversight of cohort faculty/preceptors, which includes classroom and clinical experiences by January 25, 2011;
 - f. Submit to the Board evidence of evaluations completed by the Dean or the Dean's designee for each and every faculty member, including adjunct faculty or any other individual designated by any other name, employed or otherwise involved in the instruction of nursing students by April 20, 2011;
 - g. Maintain the current number of full time faculty and staff in order to correct the deficiencies outlined herein;
 - h. Have no teaching requirements for the Dean and the Associate Dean for a period of at least fifteen (15) months and upon approval by the Board; and
 - i. Comply fully with requests of the Board.

4. Permit and approve the proposed closing of the LPN-RN and BA/BS – BSN programs, noting that such request was not received by the Board in a timely manner.
5. Failure to comply with any portion of WVCode §30 – 7 et. Seq; WV19CSR1 or any other of the Board’s laws, rules, standards, guidelines and/or requests shall result in immediate and complete withdrawal of accreditation by the Board.

If you have any questions please place them in writing to me at the above address.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skidmore Rhodes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director