



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

August 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Bruno
Provost

Laura E. Lyons
Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

VIA: Julienne Maeda
Interim Dean, Graduate Division

Handwritten signature of Julienne Maeda.

VIA: Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep
Dean, Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing

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FROM: Merle Kataoka-Yahiro
Graduate Chair, Nursing Graduate Programs

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SUBJECT: Status of PhD in Nursing Program

In a memo dated August 12, 2020 and approved by the President on September 10, 2020, the Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) requested to stop out its PhD in Nursing Program from fall 2020 to spring 2024 to explore and discuss program termination, modification and/or alternate PhD option at UH for nurses seeking the research doctorate. At the time, the intent was to terminate the program. However, NAWSON has since decided that we would like to re-establish the PhD in Nursing instead of terminating the program.

To assess the feasibility of the program, we contracted with Hanover Research to conduct a program assessment beginning in summer 2022 to the present. The assessment would include student and employer demand. Preliminary data including the prospective PhD student survey is quite promising thus firming our resolve. I will give a brief overview on the results of the survey.

The prospective PhD student survey (n=216) included enrolled students from our Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree programs and alumni from our programs. Most of the respondents care about a PhD program in Hawai'i. More than two-thirds (67%) expressed that having a PhD program is very or extremely important. Further, 64% of the respondents indicated that access to a PhD program is very and extremely important (64%). Respondents with work experience, however, rated the importance to access differently. That is, those with work experience rated the importance to access lower than the enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. About 31% of respondents are either very or extremely interested in learning more about a PhD in nursing. When considering enrolling in a PhD program in the next five

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years, more than half of the respondents, 53%, indicated a high interest with 23% very likely – extremely likely to consider enrolling in the next five years. These results will be considered in the revised curriculum for the program. Details from these data will be elaborated on, along with the results from Hanover Research’s prospective employer survey in the program modification memo to the Graduate Division and the Vice Provost for Academic Excellence.

The study also included reasons (motivators) for seeking a PhD such as to increase knowledge and job and career path opportunities. Deciding factors on where the applicants would apply include flexible program with part-time vs. full-time, delivery format, content, and scheduling; financial assistance, recruitment and marketing, and faculty capacity building between DNP and PhD programs. An additional memo is forthcoming to remove the stop out of admission to the PhD in Nursing Program.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Dean Ceria-Ulep at clem@hawaii.edu if you require additional information at this time. Thank you.