Date: December 13, 2007  
To: Dean Dracup, RN, FNP, DNSc, FAAN  
From: Lynda Mackin, RN, MS, NP  
Subject: Support for Masters Curriculum Revision

The members of the Curriculum Review Working Groups and the Masters’ Program Council are pleased to have been offered TA support in exchange for and in support of their leadership participation. Per email messages between Lynda Mackin, Associate Deans Mirsky and Fontaine, and Dean Dracup, TA support (approximately 20%) for winter and spring 2008 quarters has been offered to the leaders of the three respective working groups.

This offer was discussed at both MPC and The Adventurers meeting on December 7, 2007. While working group and MPC members are very encouraged by the offer of support, the consensus was that TA support would not be useful to them or to the potential leader of the working groups.

Given the resources committed to date for this project (support for the consultants in summer of 2007 and considerable faculty time) and the high priority assigned by the Dean and administration, the committee members respectfully request the following to enable successful and timely completion of this process:

**Faculty support:** 10-15% faculty release time (for at least two quarters) for three faculty who assume the leadership role for the respective working groups.  
**Rationale:** Review of the literature of curricular change in other large institutions emphasizes the critical role of an empowered leadership group to facilitate change. Faculty in each department have expressed concern to committee members that lack of leadership will adversely affect the project, and threatens the potential for broad based support needed for implementation.

**Travel support:** Financial support for faculty for potential travel needs while gathering data on effective models at other institutions.

**Student incentives:** Support for students to serve as a “TA” for the respective working groups; in return student may chose to develop this into a practicum or work for fee remission.  
**Rationale:** Several students have expressed interest in participating in the curricular change process; student support and input are critical components of a successful process.

**Administrative support:** A commitment from the Dean’s office to secure administrative and technological support for this work. A student TA may serve as an ideal administrative support person.
**Grant writing support**: The working groups and MPC members recognize that this activity could potentially be funded by a grant award, and request grant writing support.

**Rationale**: To maximize the chances of a successful grant submission, the working group and committee members will need extra resources.

The process to date has been successful in establishing the need for revision of the Masters program curricula, with particular attention to the core courses, and prior task force reports have outlined the sense of urgency and rationales. There is general agreement among faculty that change is needed, but concern that the process be thoughtful, well-researched, and evidence-based. The next phase requires data collection on curricular models, and tailoring these to our institutional reality and priorities to design a new curriculum. The working group and committee members feel very strongly that support for this effort is absolutely essential for its short and long term success. It is hoped that the incentives listed above will encourage the development of an empowered faculty leadership group, including a tenured track faculty member, to move the process forward. This group will be fully prepared to provide administration with objectives and a timeline for completion of activities, and will ensure that all objectives are met.