Resolution

Granting Final Approval of the
Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree
(C.I.P. 51.1602)

WHEREAS, at its April 6, 2007, meeting, The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama received the introduction and overview of The University of Alabama System and granted initial approval of permission to submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) the collaborative Notification of Intent to Submit Proposals (NISPs) for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degrees (C.I.P. 51.1602) at UA, UAB, and UAH; and

WHEREAS, at its September 14, 2007, meeting, The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama received an update on the decision by ACHE to grant only one degree program during the ensuing two-year period and the ACHE staff proposal that the program should be approved for the northern part of Alabama; therefore, the Board gave approval and permission to submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education a proposed Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree (C.I.P. 51.1602) jointly with UAB and UAH; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education reviewed and approved the program at its December 7, 2007, meeting; and

WHEREAS, upon further consideration and because of opportunities for synergism among our universities and ACHE’s reconsideration to add more than one new DNP program, it is appropriate to now include The University of Alabama in the Joint DNP with UAB and UAH; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Portera and his staff, together with the campuses’ leadership, have worked out agreements to smoothly and effectively transition UA into the ongoing planning for implementation of the DNP effective Summer 2008; and
WHEREAS, similar to other disciplines, doctoral programs in nursing may be categorized into two distinct types, research-focused and practice focused programs, and the proposed Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program among The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, and The University of Alabama will be a practice-focused degree and therefore similar to professional degrees offered in other health-related disciplines; and

WHEREAS, the Joint DNP program proposed by the three institutions was developed in response to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) 2004 position statement that recommended that the DNP degree be the required credential for all advanced practice nurses by the year 2015; and

WHEREAS, in a 2006 document entitled The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) outlines new standards for educating nurses at the graduate level; and

WHEREAS, these new standards call for the transition of M.S.N. advanced nursing practice programs to Doctor of Nursing Practice programs over the coming years, a change that will be reflected in accreditation requirements; and

WHEREAS, the nursing programs at UAB, UAH, and UA have worked closely to develop an approach to training nurses that will share strengths and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Program will have available the outstanding resources located in the academic health sciences center at UAB along with opportunities for training within numerous health care facilities, and Huntsville and Tuscaloosa are considered centers for medical excellence in the northern and western regions of the state, respectively;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama that it supports and grants final approval of the Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree (C.I.P. 51.1602) to be jointly offered by The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, and The University of Alabama.