May 3, 2012

Honorable Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Report on Enrollment in Nursing Degree Programs

Provision 5 of the California State University’s main support item in the 2011 Budget Act states: “(b) The California State University shall report to the Legislature and the Governor by May 1, 2012, on the total enrollment in the 2011–12 academic year in the baccalaureate nursing degree and entry-level master's degree nursing programs.”

In addition, subsection (f) of Education Code Section 89276 states that “… the chancellor shall prepare and submit to the Legislature a report regarding the status of the California State University entry-level master's programs, including, but not necessarily limited to, the number of programs created, the number of licensed registered nurses resulting from the entry-level master's pre-licensure program component, and the number of nurses with a master's degree in nursing that have graduated from California State University entry-level master's programs.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California State University Nursing Enrollment (in FTES)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELM Base Year 2005-06</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BS Nursing (BSN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS Nursing (traditional MSN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry-Level MS Nursing(ELM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Masters Nursing Programs</td>
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1The base established for CSU entry-level Master’s nursing programs was equal to the 443 FTES funding support level received in 2005-06.
CSU has maintained its commitment to fund 443 FTES in the ELM program, although total ELM enrollment has decreased from its peak in 2009-10 due to reduced State funding levels and the high cost of nursing instruction. In addition, the CSU continues to surpass the 375 FTES for supplemental funding received for BSN nursing enrollment growth in 2007-08. Despite CSU budget reductions, BSN nursing FTES enrollments for 2011-12 are 16 percent higher than the 2006-07 BSN base year enrollments and almost 20 percent above the 443 FTES baseline for ELM enrollments funded in 2005-06.

**ELM PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

*Number of Programs Created.* Following the signing of SB 1245 into law in September 2004, CSU established nine (9) ELM degree programs at campuses across the state. Humboldt, Bakersfield and Northridge campuses started ELM programs but could not maintain enrollments sufficient to sustain the programs. Following state funding support for masters nursing program enrollment growth in fiscal year 2006-07, there are currently (8) state-supported ELM programs at the following CSU campuses: Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Sonoma.

*ELM to RN Success Rate.* The California Board of Registered Nurses (BRN) will not release the requested data on entry level MSN graduates who go on to earn RN board certification, despite repeated efforts by the CSU to obtain this data. Although data is unavailable, it is reasonable to expect that most students enroll in the ELM program with the intention of becoming registered nurses.

*ELM Graduates.* The total enrollment in the ELM program for academic year 2010-11 was 579 FTES. During that academic year, 299 MSN degrees were conferred in this four to six semester program.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact Robert Turnage, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget, at (562) 951-4560 or rturnage@calstate.edu.

Sincerely,

Benjamin F. Quillian
Executive Vice Chancellor and
Chief Financial Officer

BFQ: bdo

c: Members, California Legislature
   Ana Matosantos, Director, Department of Finance
   Gregory Schmidt, Secretary of the Senate
   Diane Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
   E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly, California State Assembly
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