

1 *Questions/Concerns to be Addressed Regarding Doctor of Nursing Practice*

2 **Education**

- 3 • Can the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) be differentiated from the PhD in terms of:
- 4 • Curriculum content
- 5 • Competencies
- 6 • Outcomes
- 7 • Roles occupied by graduates
- 8 • What faculty preparation will be required to teach in the DNP program? Will master's
- 9 prepared faculty be teaching in adjunct or temporary roles?
- 10 • Will those with a DNP be tenured/equitable within the university setting or become
- 11 second class citizens in the academic environment?
- 12 • Who is going to teach DNP students since the role is considered advanced practice?
- 13 • What are faculty expectations for their own success in tenure/promotion?
- 14 • What are faculty expectations for student success?
- 15 • Will there be confusion if master's degree programs still exist? Should those programs be
- 16 phased out now?
- 17 • Has there been a cost benefit analysis of how the DNP will affect cost of nursing faculty?
- 18 • Would it be more cost effective to utilize master's prepared clinicians to teach in nursing
- 19 programs?
- 20 • Given the current need for nursing faculty to focus energy on increasing faculty salaries
- 21 and incentives to entice clinicians to teach, is there a need for a clinical doctorate?
- 22 • Are educators deciding that there is a gap in clinical practice; that they feel there needs to
- 23 be a practice doctorate, rather than responding to a study that demonstrates the need?

24 **Practice**

- 25 • What empirical evidence exists to support development of the DNP?
- 26 • Does the DNP add another layer to the nursing profession?
- 27 • Will this new title add to public confusion of nursing degrees?
- 28 • Would it be better to focus energy on making patient care better, using existing
- 29 personnel?
- 30 • If APRNs as currently prepared are to be eliminated, will the focus of the DNP be clinical
- 31 or policy and management?
- 32 • If the DNP role is fully implemented, what assurances guarantee that all academic
- 33 institutions across the county will phase out their DNS, ND and DNSc program? If not,
- 34 then what is the unique advantage of adding yet another layer of nursing and doctorate
- 35 degree?
- 36 • Since the DNP is proposed to not be a research-focused role, please outline how the DNP
- 37 and PhD will collaborate on research initiatives? What can a DNP do versus not do
- 38 regarding research?
- 39 • Has there been consideration of mentors for existing master's prepared clinicians to do
- 40 bedside research?

41 **Economics**

- 42 • What is the rationale for having students spend more dollars on educational preparation
43 for the DNP when state laws and regulations currently allow them to have a master's
44 degree to practice?
- 45 • What is the cost of the DNP in regards to the economics of the profession?
- 46 • Has there been a financial analysis performed of the impact on universities by eliminating
47 the master's program?
- 48 • What salary level is someone with a DNP expected to command?
- 49 • What research demonstrates that nursing service can bear the additional cost associated
50 with hiring someone with a DNP? If such evidence is missing, will AACN or another
51 organization conduct such an analysis? Why or why not?
- 52 • Has there been a cost benefit analysis of how the DNP will affect cost of nursing faculty?
- 53 • Would it be more cost effective to utilize master's prepared clinicians to teach in nursing
54 programs?

55 **Regulation**

- 56 • What are the factors that assure that nursing boards will accept this degree to replace
57 those achieved by APRNs?
- 58 • Will state boards of nursing need to establish new recognition or licensing mechanisms
59 for DNPs or will the existing APRN regulation frameworks suffice?
- 60 • How would state nurse practice acts and regulatory language need to change upon
61 implementation of the DNP?

62 **Credentialing**

- 63 • What will be the role of credentialing bodies? Will those entities need to create
64 certification mechanisms and new specialty exams for DNPs?