

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program Report**  
**From the College of Health Sciences**  
**1 OCTOBER 2008**

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-116 (e) and (f)]

To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

**Program update**

The Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing offers a graduate program preparing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP). This master's program, started in the fall of 2005, began with funding assistance from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Student enrollment began in the 2005-2006 academic year. PMHNPs are advanced practice registered nurses who provide a full range of psychiatric care, including assessing, diagnosing, and managing the prevention and treatment of psychiatric disorders and mental health problems. PMHNPs work in various settings, from outpatient settings such as clinics to hospitals.

The State of Wyoming established an educational loan repayment program for PMHNP students in 2006. Under this program, the University of Wyoming was authorized to provide up to \$10,000 per academic semester or \$2,500 per summer session for nurses enrolled in a PMHNP program full-time. Students enrolled part-time can receive funds proportionally reduced based on the number of credit hours the students is taking. Students receiving support from the State are then obligated to actively engage in professional practice as a PMHNP for up to one year for each academic year of study for which support was provided under this program, or repay all amounts expended by the State for the student's education.

The PMHNP loan program was set up to support six students for their two years of education during the first year of the funding and then to add an additional six more for two years starting in the second year of state funding. Currently there are 23 students enrolled in the program. As of May 2008 seven students have graduated with six of the seven practicing in Wyoming. The one graduated student not practicing in Wyoming has a one year grace period to start repayment of their loan. One student is currently making payments after dropping out of the program last year. The student has re-enrolled in the program and it is anticipated that payment will be waived as long as the student continues to progress towards graduation.

Funding to continue the program for FY 2009-2010 at six students per year is contained in the standard budget for the UW 167 Medical Education state budget

**Required report**

W.S. 21-17-116 (e) – Under this provision, like the WWAMI program, the University's Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, may relieve a student

from repayment of a loan provided under this section for undue hardship. The provision requires the University to report to the Committee the number of students who have been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan. No student who has received this loan has either left the program or graduated. As such, no student has been relieved of the obligation repay the loan.

W.S. 21-17-116 (f) – Under this provision, again similar to the WWAMI program, effective July 1, 2008, all loan repayments under this program are to be credited to an account to be used by the University to fund loans under this program. This provision requires the University to report to the Committee regarding expenditures from this account during the preceding fiscal year. No expenditures have occurred from the repayment funds.

### **FY08 – Fiscal report**

#### Corpus in Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program Fund

Beginning balance	\$ -0-
Collections	\$ 1,150
FY 08 earnings	\$ -0-
Total available for loans	\$ 1,150

<u>FY 08 loan expenditures</u>	\$ -0-
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