**Deans and Directors ZOOM Session**

**June 3, 2020**

**Notes from the session**

Announcement from Jim Cleghorn, Executive Director for the Georgia Board of Nursing

* We *(Georgia Board of Nursing)* are extending the temporary permits for new graduates through September 12 and may extend them again depending on the testing capacity

Deans and Directors discussed various items but the focus was primarily on three topics:

1. Clinical preparation for Fall 2020 and possible requirements of PPE.
2. An exchange of ideas on how schools are keeping graduates motivated to maintain preparedness, especially those who may have late testing dates.
3. Planning for the Fall 2020 semester and the return of students.

**Topic 1: Clinical preparation for Fall 2020 and possible requirements of PPE.**

The group began discussion with agency requirements for schools with summer UG clinical students.

* Georgia Southern University’s accelerated student group (Brunswick campus) will re-enter clinical areas on/around June 22. There are no agency requirements for students to bring their own PPE. Their students are not expected to work with COVID, isolation or high risk patients.
* **Grady Health System** indicated they will be coming out with guidelines, which may include a PPE requirement. Students at Grady will be required to park off-site.
  + UPDATE 6.5.2020 received from Linda O'Sullivan, Grady Health System
    - Please plan to provide your students with their PPE (Mask). Students must have mask on as they enter the building (please share the policy with your students).
    - Students will not be allowed to enter isolation rooms or participate in procedures of any type in an effort to preserve PPE.
    - Students will be screened by having their temperature taken upon entry and must have their badges on and visible. Students without a badge will not be let into the building.
    - Group will be limited to 5 – 7 students (To limit crowding on the unit).
  + **GRADY UNIVERSAL MASK POLICY**
    - Grady requires that all persons wear a mask while at the hospital or any of our other locations. For staff (and students), that means a mask must be worn in areas including, but not limited to, hallways, atriums, elevators, patient care areas, the cafeteria and any location where staff cannot safely socially distance. The mask may be an N95 mask, a surgical mask, or a cloth mask that covers the nose and mouth. The mask requirement also applies to patients and visitors and if they do not have a mask when they arrive, a mask is provided when they are screened at our entrances. If patients or visitors arrive to floors, clinics, or other areas without a mask on, it is that area’s responsibility to provide a mask – masks are for the safety of everyone so we must all work together to ensure this policy is followed.
* Senior students at Valdosta are re-entering clinical areas. One site is accepting a small cohort and no decision has been made regarding whether students will bring their own PPE.
* Mercer will re-enter clinical sites on/around July 1. While full on-site clinical practice will not be available, senior students may have up to half of their clinical in an agency this summer.

**Topic 2: An exchange of ideas on how schools are keeping graduates motivated to maintain preparedness, especially those who may have late testing dates.**

* Most schools indicated graduates are starting to test.
* Mercer partnered with Wellstar to support onboarding graduates in a faculty to graduate NCLEX-RN mentoring program
* Group members were reminded that Chamberlain is offering a FREE NCLEX-RN preparation course and it is expected to begin mid-June. The offering is only available to graduates through their employer. Shawn Little (Director at Chamberlain) is the contact.
  + **Dr. Shawn Little, CNE, DNP, RN** | *Campus President*

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**Topic 3: Planning for the Fall 2020 semester and the return of students.**

There was much discussion regarding how universities and colleges are preparing for fall semester 2020. While some faculty and staff have returned to private school campuses, the state system will begin transitioning faculty and staff to campus June 15 and some 12 month in July. General conversation regarding fall planning included:

* All faculty, staff and students are likely to be required to wear masks when entering the building
* In the fall 2020 semester, actual campus classroom sessions may be limited; some are considering 50% online/zoom and 50% campus class. There may be other hybrid options, as well.
* Some schools are considering staggering days in a way to limit student volume in buildings.
* Some schools are considering starting earlier than planned (or at the same time as planned) but finishing ON CAMPUS classes during the week of Thanksgiving holiday. This is intended to avoid having students return to campus after travel. Fall break days may be eliminated.
* Common spaces may be reduced/eliminated
* Waivers or attestation letters are being considered by some schools. These letters will outline possible risks inherent in nursing school or higher education.
* Most schools indicated that any shift to online would not be directed at a ‘self-paced’ concept of learning.

Final discussion point - Examination Integrity

* While some schools felt examity with faculty (ZOOM) proctoring was reasonably secure, others felt there were integrity concerns.
* ProctorU was described as a ‘nightmare’ for one program.
* One school used cameras to proctor students and included a mirror behind the student to offer a nearly 360 visual.

These meetings will continue to take place weekly to support the Deans and Directors of Georgia.

Secretary Pro Tem: Linda Streit, Mercer University