The Indiana University Kokomo School of Nursing hosted a breakfast meeting Tuesday, August 9, 2005, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. in the Cole Community Room. Administrators in attendance from area facilities were as follows: Jyl Hight—Dukes Memorial Hospital; Rhonda Blount—Howard Regional Health System; Jeanette Huntoon—Logansport Memorial Hospital; Bob Cosgray—Logansport State Hospital; Connie Burt—St. Joseph Hospital; Kristi Bledsoe—St. Vincent Frankfort Hospital; and JoEllen Scott—Tipton County Memorial Hospital. IUK School of Nursing administration in attendance was as follows: Penny S. Cass—Dean; Lynda Narwold—ASN Director; Nancy Schlapman—Baccalaureate & Higher Degree Programs Chair; and Linda Wallace—International Programs Director.

Introductions of those present were made around the table and Cass thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy scheduled to attend.

**IU System/Campus Update**—Cass shared information regarding the start of the 2005-06 academic year:

- **Student enrollment**—Numbers in the nursing programs are up from last year—90 ASN 1st year, 90 BSN Sophomores, 48 LPNS’s join the ASN 2nd year for a total of 129 ASN 2nd year students. There is a large RN-BSN pod 1 cohort, and IUKSON will consider additional cohort to start in the fall if individual facilities identify the need in-house.

- **MSN program**—The MSN student cohort is in the final stages of completing requirements for degree completion. Cass voiced her hope that the facilities for which the MSN students work will embrace their new degree status, and assist the new graduates to maximize their abilities to the benefit of all concerned.

- **NCLEX update**—Scores continue to vacillate. The NCSBN continued to increase test rigor with the intention to bring test success in at approximately 75% pass rate as the grand mean. Schools will not see pass rates as in past years due to these factors. The IUKSON will be expecting more from students as more is being expected of them in the professional setting. Performance has been comparable around the State of Indiana, and results to date look rough for everyone. The ISBN sends a site visitor to evaluate and assist programs with identified critical areas of concern. Cass worked with L. Peters from Ivy Tech and D. Boland from IUPUI to create language which is now state policy. The policy states that schools within 1% standard deviation of the national mean will be exempt from a site visit from the state board. The Indiana mean was 74.6%, and no visits are anticipated for either of the IUKSON ASN or BSN programs.

- **Student assessment tool**—Faculty have diligently studied student outcomes for all aspects of their education, including writing, communication skills, etc. Faculty have chosen a company, ATI, to deliver student assessment throughout the curriculum. Cass shared a timeline of events to date regarding approval for implementing the assessment fee structure from central administration. The fee for assessment would be attached to each course throughout the nursing curriculum, thereby providing feedback and remediation before allowing the student to progress to the next level. The fee structure request was submitted by all IU campuses, and upper administration summarily disapproved any new fees. Cass informed those present that she continues to fight for implementation. Faculty are struggling as much effort has been expended over the last year to get the system up and running. Cass suggested the possibility of a match from community entities, including those present, that she felt the initiative would be seen as more “doable”. Cass reminded those present that funds donated from the facilities could possibly result in a cost savings or possibly decrease their current resource drain due to board failures of new employees. Statistics from ATI are available which support the positive impact of the program on student success. N. Schlapman has the information available and will send to those interested. A list was circulated for those interested to indicate such and the information would be sent to them. A letter of support and worth to the community was also discussed. Cass indicated should such a letter be necessary to garner additional support in her campaign for
implementation she would be in contact. All present discussed the benefits to patient within the facilities, to the facilities themselves, the new nursing graduates—it was perceived as a definite win-win proposal.

- Accreditation update—Per the normal 8-year visit cycle, the ASN program is scheduled for an NLNAC self-study site visit in Fall 2007. The NLN will allow a free 6-month postponement if requested. Cass will present the option to faculty at the fall ’05 retreat. The BSN program is scheduled for the normal 10-year site visit in 2010. This will allow a comprehensive evaluation and compilation of assessment data.

- Nightingale Event—the IUKSON will forego the biannual Nightingale event due to the IUK campus celebrating its 60th anniversary this academic year. Cass did not want to create a competition of sorts for facilities within the community to have to support multiple events within the current fiscally tight environment.

- Korean Exchange—due to increased student enrollment, IUKSON will not be sending a faculty member to Korea this fall semester. The needs of IUK students and our community are our top priority.

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<th>PROGRAM</th>
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| ASN Program—including generic ASN students, as well as LPN transition students | First year = 189  
Second year = 132 |
| BSN Program—including generic BSN students, as well as RN-BSN (Pod) students | Sophomore = 78  
Junior = 42  
Senior = 31  
RN-BSN (Pod, on campus) = 29 |
| MSN—community health                        | 20                                |
**ASN Program Information**—L. Narwold shared information regarding enrollment in the program. Narwold shared information and history relative to reducing ASN program enrollment and increasing BSN program enrollment. Narwold also informed the group of the large attrition rate during the last academic year due to the caliber of student qualifications/readiness, e.g. lower GPA. The student cohort for AY 2005-06 has an overall higher GPA, and thus the IUkSON projects a lower attrition rate. Narwold shared concerns regarding the work ethic, or lack thereof, that is currently plaguing the school. Narwold shared examples of “short cuts” used by students to complete course elements and objectives. Representatives from the facilities present shared their perspective regarding these same issues relative to all areas of the health professions. Nursing is no longer viewed as a career, but rather what can the individual gain/receive as a result of their employment. All faculty positions are filled. Narwold shared that credential qualifications (BSN) of adjunct faculty could possibly be impacting student success. Other factors were also listed as possible impactors—JCAHO within the hospital facilities (check offs on new equipment, etc.). Structuring of post conference to include critical thinking was discussed.

**BSN & Higher Degree Program Information**—N. Schlapman shared information pertaining to the BSN leap in enrollment as well as an update on the MSN program status. See enrollment figures on page 1 of minutes. Schlapman also stated that she has a full complement of faculty for fall ’05. Schlapman reminded the group that we try to use MSN prepared adjunct faculty, however that is not always possible. Regarding the MSN program, Schlapman stated that she doesn’t anticipate offering the NP due to community need and utilization, and IUkSON has made the commitment to provide programs and degrees which are beneficial to both the students and the community which we serve. The possibility exists that we may offer the adult health masters in the distant future. The community health masters program was chosen for the Kokomo community per the above stated guidelines. The first cohort of 20 begins graduating in August 2005, with individuals scheduled to complete requirements between then and summer 2006. The next cohort will be admitted in 2006, with admission dates as follows—September 2005 and February 2006. The RN-BSN pod program will again be offered off-site at Riverview Hospital in Spring 2006. Additionally, an off-site executive session of the RN-BSN pod program has been scheduled for Spring 2006. This session will be held at HRHS and is being designed for managers who want to complete the BSN without sitting in a classroom with employees for whom there are responsible for managing. Anyone can sign-up for this offering, and those present were encouraged to forward names of possible interested participants to Schlapman. This type of session will be based on identified need, and not a regularly scheduled basis. Schlapman also reminded those present of the nursing-based statistics elective that is required for persons interested in pursuing the MSN. The course can also be used as an elective for basic BSN students.

**International Programs/Exchanges**—L. Wallace reminded the group that the exchange program is labor and resource intensive. Wallace shared that 3 faculty/groups have exchanged each way between MPU in Korea and IUkSON. The Korean faculty prefer to stay 1 year, whereas IUk faculty exchange for maximum of 1 semester at a time. Wallace stressed the benefit to all participants relative to exposure to those who think differently within the same profession. Wallace thanked the facilities for allowing visitors access via tours and the hospitality extended to the visitors while in their institutions. Wallace also thanked the group for assistance she has been given relative to establishing management clinical experiences within various facilities.

**Program Evaluations**
Program evaluations were sent to each facility with the breakfast invitation letter. Those present returned evaluations to S. Mason for aggregation. If forms were not available to bring to the meeting, please forward to S. Mason at the earliest opportunity.

Cass again thanked those present for assistance to educate our student nurses, and reiterated any assistance available from the hospitals regarding the ATI student assessment initiative would be greatly appreciated. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

/smm, 9/6/05