Adam Lutzker called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. David Gordon (Dean/SHPS) to present the SHPS reorganization proposal submitted in response to the proposal to establish a separate school of nursing.

Items of Discussion

- Alternative SON Proposal/Suggested Reorganization of SHPS

Dr. Gordon presented two documents to the committee: (1) recommendations to the Provost regarding Restructuring; and (2) Analysis of Structure Proposed to Provost. Both documents were generated in response to the request by the nursing department to form a School of Nursing.

Dr. Gordon stated that as a practicing physician he holds the highest respect for the nursing profession and further relayed that nursing “autonomy” is not just a Flint issue, by a topic that is nationwide in among institutions of higher education. Dr. Gordon further stated that collaboration among institutional units is absolutely necessary in the healthcare industry.

Dr. Gordon relayed his impression that many in the nursing department felt the establishment of a PA program within SHPS posed a “threat” to nursing and, further, that nursing would lose students to a PA program. This is not a belief that is shared among other healthcare units ~ most believing that if a student desires to pursue a PA degree; they will pursue that avenue of study.

The restructuring that Dr. Gordon has proposed is aimed at addressing the concerns of the nursing department and would provide the “seat at the table” they are seeking.
A Lutzker inquired about the nursing assertion that clinical placements are becoming more difficult, particularly for nurses. Dr. Gordon admitted that affiliation agreements are challenging as many hospitals and clinics are looking for agreements that lump all internships together (e.g., are not restricted solely to nursing).

E. Newberry inquired how the nurses felt about Dr. Gordon’s proposal restructuring. Dr. Gordon stated the nursing faculty had rejected the proposal as submitted.

A Lutzker questioned whether the nurses’ assertion is accurate that PAs are a "threat." Dr. Gordon stated that the curriculum is quite different between nursing and PAs and that most placements are not competitive between the two professions but between institutions. Currently, the largest competition among local hospitals is for medical students. C. Larson stated that clinical placements are requiring a change in models even within the PT profession.

Inquiry was made relative to the monetary resources that would be needed to establish a PA program. Dr. Gordon estimated the necessary amount to be somewhere around $1 million for a cohort of 40 students (over a 3-year period). Dr. Gordon further stated his belief that there is potential for collaboration among not only the units with SHPS but in the college and other schools as well.

E. Newberry questioned the research argument and whether establishment of a separate school of nursing would generate additional research dollars. Dr. Gordon stated this really isn’t a valid argument as research dollars aren’t allocated based on whether or not nursing is a department versus a school.

R. Person stressed that establishment of a separate school of nursing would require approval by the board of regents. Given there are regents who used “shared services” as their platform, approval of a separate SON might face an uphill battle.

A Lutzker inquired as to the number of tenured faculty within the nursing department. Dr. Gordon stated there are currently 4 tenured professors.

A Lutzker advised that Faculty Council has requested input on the SON proposal by CAC/BSP. Given that nursing and administration have now presented their respective proposals, the committee will deliver their recommendation in the near future.
• **Budget Discussion Items**

A Lutzker also reported the faculty within CAS recently passed a resolution requesting thorough review of the current budget model with an eye toward modifying the model so as to discourage course duplication across units and within the schools. It was requested that G. Tewksbury and G. Glasco present alternative budget models that might address this specific issue.

• **Future Meetings**

Friday ~ December 6th

Friday ~ December 20th