RESOLVED, That the letter of intent for a proposed program in Nursing Practice leading to the Doctoral degree (DNP) to be offered at The College of Staten Island be approved, effective November 29, 2011, subject to financial ability.

EXPLANATION: as per customary practice, new doctoral programs are presented to the Board twice: at the Letter of Intent Stage and subsequently at the full proposal stage. The proposed program is designed to prepare advanced practice nurses who can provide evidenced-based cost effective high quality care for persons from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, translating research into clinical practice. The curriculum will include diagnosis and treatment of illness or health conditions, advocacy for underserved and culturally diverse individuals and groups, decision making related to personal health, constraining health care costs while maintaining quality of care, health informatics, health education, counseling, coordination of services, and evaluation of treatment outcomes.

A clinical doctoral degree in nursing meets the need of a growing number of nurses who want to excel in practice and it represents the Department of Nursing’s efforts to meet the anticipated requirement by our accrediting organization, American Association of Colleges of Nursing (ACCN), to make the DNP a requirement for entry to practice for advanced practice nursing. In addition, the proposed DNP program is expected to fulfill a strong local, regional, and national need for doctorally prepared advanced practice nurses who can help fill the anticipated shortage of primary care physicians (Mechanic, 2009).