RESOLVED, that the program in Nursing Science leading to the Doctor of Nursing Science at the Graduate School and University Center be converted to a program awarding the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing, effective June 26, 2012, subject to financial ability.

EXPLANATION: Currently, students graduating from the Graduate School and University Center’s doctoral program in Nursing Science are awarded the Doctor of Nursing Science (DNS). When the Graduate School began offering a terminal degree in Nursing in 2006, the decision to award the DNS rather than the PhD was made primarily because the other health sciences doctoral degrees awarded by the Graduate School were either clinical outcomes focused research degrees, which aptly describes the DNS as well as the Doctor of Public Health, or practice doctorates such as the Doctor of Audiology and the Doctor of Physical Therapy; there were no PhD degrees in health sciences. However, nationally, over time, the distinctions between the PhD in Nursing and the DNS have eroded and universities across the nation, including CUNY, have begun to offer the practice doctorate in nursing, that is, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), for individuals seeking careers as Nurse Practitioners. Between 2008-2010 six DNS programs across the country have converted to the PhD and only four DNS programs, including CUNY’s, remain. By means of minor curricular changes in the DNS curriculum, CUNY faculty are strengthening the students’ preparation to conduct more theoretical research, as is appropriate for a PhD degree. For all of these reasons, CUNY should make the transition from a DNS to a PhD in Nursing degree.