

**Faculty Development Grant
Norway Experience – January 2006
Evaluation Report**

**Submitted by
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We would like to thank the Bush Foundation for this faculty development opportunity. This study trip was invaluable in furthering our understanding of the Norwegian system of higher education and nursing education within this system as well as the opportunities and challenges for international student and faculty exchange between Augustana College and selected Norwegian universities. We would also like to thank the Augustana College Faculty Development Committee and Donn Grinager, Director of International Studies, for assistance with this faculty development study project.

At each of the locations listed below, we met with directors of international study, deans and heads of institutes of nursing, and faculty of nursing. This was very helpful to our understanding of the organizational structure of the educational system in Norway and allowed us to develop important contacts within each university. We were also able to tour a hospital, attend classes, and meet with students.

January 23-24: Bodo University College, Bodo
January 25, University College of Trondheim
January 27, Telemark University College, Porsgrun
January 30, University College of Haugesund/Stord

Outcomes:

Knowledge gained to develop opportunities for international faculty and nursing student exchange.

Through this study we gained knowledge that made the following possible:

A. Expand Norwegian student exchange at Augustana

During this trip we were able to meet with the international exchange students from Norway who studied at Augustana during the Fall 2006 and their faculty. We learned that from the student and faculty perspective, this was a highly successful exchange. Student outcomes that reflect a successful exchange experience included successful completion with a grade of C or higher of all nursing courses and satisfactory performance in clinical internships in acute care settings. Due to the success of this experience and the developing relationships, the program will be expanded for Fall 2007 from 3 students to up to 6 students. Based on our evaluation, we learned that opportunities exist for improving the experience. Modifications will include granting 1 hour of academic credit for the intensive orientation program for international students. In addition to an introduction to the American health care system, this course will include

individual assessment of each student's knowledge and skill of physical examination and clinical skills needed for entry into senior level nursing courses. In addition, the sequence of pre-requisite clinical courses would be modified so that students have a hospital-based experience in Norway prior to their American experience. This will allow students to compare health systems.

B. Initiate Augustana nursing student internships in Norway

Beginning January 2007, up to 4 students will participate in a Norwegian internship at the University College of Bodo, in Bodo Norway. Experience to include hospital and community settings will be included in the experience. This will be a nursing elective similar to other internships in the nursing major.

C. Plan for exchange of Augustana students for a semester.

We learned that the biggest challenge is the difference in curriculum design between the Norwegian and American education systems. While both curricula are rather prescribed, in the Norwegian curriculum, liberal studies including science courses are integrated with nursing courses, and often taught by nursing faculty, making transfer of the core of liberal studies more difficult. Second, in Norway, students immerse in clinical practice similar to the diploma model of nursing education. This makes scheduling an appropriate sequence of courses for Augustana students more difficult during a semester exchange. Finally, most schools have very little didactic instruction currently taught in English, although there is a major initiative in the Norwegian system of higher education to increase the number of majors that are offered in English.

D. Plan for faculty exchange

Several possibilities exist. The earliest possibility would be for Professor Schroeder or Dr. Nelson to study with students in Norway during January 2007 in Bodo. Dr. Younger is exploring the possibility of a Fulbright fellowship during the AY 2007-08 as part of her sabbatical leave. Scholarly exchange opportunities during faculty exchange include assisting with developing nursing courses in English for international students, collaborate research, and participating in development of graduate health-related programs. Part of the national educational goals in Norway include moving institutes of higher education from Schools to Universities through increasing the number of doctorally prepared faculty, developing graduate programs and research. Several faculty, primarily in Bodo, expressed interest in studying at Augustana. This would strengthen Augustana's ability to integrate nursing theories and concepts from Norway and European countries in our curriculum.

Outcome 2: Areas identified in the nursing curriculum for integration of cultural concepts.

Curriculum

Based upon our discussion with international students who studied with us Fall 2005 and dialogue with our Norwegian colleagues, we have identified that our curriculum needs to broaden its perspective beyond US scholars in nursing

history, theories, ethics and research. Integration of nursing theories, ethical theories and nursing history from Norway, Sweden and Greece are planned in N322 for Spring 2007. In the nursing research course, N450, students will be encouraged to broaden their literature reviews to include references from international nursing journals. Based on faculty evaluation of the international student internship journals, international students will be strongly encouraged to bring references of nurse theorists from their home country as a basis for comparative analyses and to use in student presentations. We recognize that in order to internationalize our curriculum, it would be highly advantageous to host a visiting professor from Norway or another country to assist us with curriculum modification and to broaden students' perspective.