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It is with great enthusiasm and support that we the faculty senators of the WSU Intercollegiate College of Nursing respond to Dean Butterfield's Academic Affairs Prioritization Self-Review. Nursing includes five academic programs accessible across five statewide campuses and via the internet. It is the largest college of nursing in the WWAMI region and undergraduate and advanced practice graduates historically and consistently demonstrate exceptional pass rates on both state licensure and national certification exams. It is truly an honor and privilege to be part of this exciting, innovative and exceptional college.

We would also like to emphasize the following two additional recommendations for consideration within this prioritization process which are of great concern to faculty.

1. Resolution of the funding formula by which the College is sustained in correlation with the funding formula by which branch campuses are established must be addressed. Funds must be appropriately allocated to the campus in which cost is incurred and not simply apportioned to campuses where students are enrolled. The current mechanism by which funds are distributed to support expansion of branch campus programs at the expense and detriment to the College of Nursing is unacceptable and no longer feasible. Mass exodus of tenured and tenure track faculty subsequent to these funding inequities must stop.
2. Resolution of faculty salary formulas commensurate not only within the academic arena but also within the marketplace must be addressed. To sustain and grow academic programs in nursing to meet the health needs of Washington's residents, we must recruit and retain competent qualified advanced practice nurses to our region. Currently, the 'brain drain' of nurse scientists and educators from Washington state is at an historic rate; and, regardless of whether we recommend growth in our programs, if we do not have faculty who can earn more than the undergraduate students they teach, we will be unable to sustain and grow our capacity for continued excellence.