The AAC met on October 17, 2008 with Dr. Derryl Block to discuss the Nursing Program Review. In addition to Dr. Block the following were present: John Lyon, Lloyd Noppe, Dennis Lorenz, Pat Ragan, and Chris Style (chair).

Overall, the nursing review material is thorough and in depth and Dr. Block should be commended for her leadership in administrating this challenging and growing program. Since the last review, a strong marketing component is now in operation, and a synthesis project in the Capstone course is now a part of their assessment process. The Nursing Program has steady and healthy enrollments that are moving from mostly face-to-face to online instruction, which is consistent with the national trend. Other evaluative methods were tried including all faculty grading all projects but that proved too tedious and time consuming and the overall results did not show much if any improvement in student outcomes. The Program seeks out employers’ data but the most valuable gauge continues to be students returning to the program for updated training. The program is satisfied with its current progress and although small, it is an effective and well-respected program.

The enrollment trends material presented with the report were discussed with Dr. Block and it was determined that the change in recording within the Registrar’s Office is responsible for making it appear as if the National enrollment had decreased when it had actually increased. There are currently 219 students enrolled in all three tracks in Nursing. The campus face-to-face program is decreasing as the local student base once having taken an online course continue to use that mode of instruction. The Nursing Program had a one-year overlap in which both the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CNE) accredited it. Currently the program is only paying dues to the CNE. Additionally, in order to maintain CNE accreditation the Nursing Programs is required to belong to a range of multiple associations.

The combination of three different funding mechanisms makes it a challenging program to run and includes establishing contracts between other institutions. The programs budget is currently in good shape because of grants and having a self-funded track based upon an outreach model. 90% of Dr. Block’s time is used in directing and administration duties and at present there isn’t another faculty member who could take over or share in this responsibility. The program continues to work to get tenure-track faculty tenured. The program did receive funds from the UW System to increase the face-to-face program in Marinette and Rhinelander. Most of the UW-Green Bay community doesn’t know the nursing students as they come after taking their general education credits elsewhere. The Nursing Program attracts a highly diverse community of students.

The Nursing program’s primary feeder school is NWTC and there is little collaboration with Bellin even though they share an Honors Society. St. Norbert College is not considered as competition.
The most significant problems addressed by Dr. Block were the heavy administrative responsibilities of the Chair and the limited time available to nursing faculty for scholarship or the opportunity to keep up their clinical skills. Both issues will make it difficult to reach their goals of starting an Internet based Master’s Program and, eventually a Clinical Doctorate. The Nursing Program might be best served if a full-time Director of Nursing position was requested.