 Article 1 – OBJECT

Section 1: The goal of the Professional Nursing Care Committee (PNCC) shall be to constructively work for the improvement of patient care and safety practice of nursing care. It shall be in accordance with, but not limited to, the American Nurses Association Standards of Nursing Practice, Oregon State Board of Nursing Scope of Nursing Practice and the American Nurses Association Code for Nurses. The PNCC shall make appropriate recommendations to the Vice President of Nursing Care Services and/or the Hospital Administrator.

Section 2: Specific responsibilities of the PNCC and all nurses practicing with the state of Oregon, is mandated by the Oregon State Board of Nursing under the OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, chapter 851, Division 45- Board of Nursing. Standards for Registered Nurse Scope of Practice 851-45-010. Specifically (but not limited to): (a) providing an environment conducive to safety and health, (b) collaborate with other members of the health team to provide optimum care, (c) consult with nurses and other health team members and make referrals if necessary, (d) reporting unsafe nursing practices to the Board through appropriate channels and unsafe practice conditions to the appropriate regulatory agency(s), and (e) act as an advocate for the patients. It is the responsibility of the PNCC to monitor the quality of patient care within this hospital and to provide written documentation of poor-quality care, unsafe staffing levels, and improper nursing conduct. Also, the responsibility to question administrative directives found to be outside of the stated objectives for "quality patient care."

Section 3: The hospital recognizes the responsibility of the PNCC to recommend measures objectively and to improve patient care and will duly consider such recommendations when submitted in writing and will advise the Committee in writing of any action taken. If a dispute arises over recommendations for nursing care, it shall be referred to the Oregon Nurses Association Cabinet on Practice and Research for consideration and recommendations. It should be agreed upon with administration to provide privileges to this committee for use of the copy machine to facilitate the flow of paperwork necessary for the functioning of this committee. This committee in turn should be able to document its use of the copy machine as legitimate and necessary.
Article II – MEMBERS

Section 1: The Professional Nursing Care Committee shall be composed of seven (7) Registered Nurses employed at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (GSRMC) in Corvallis and covered by ONA contract, preferably representing different clinical areas and shifts, elected by the bargaining unit.

Section 2: The term of membership on this Committee shall be for a period of two years. Alternate years, three or four members of the PNCC shall retire. Members may run for re-election.

Section 3: The Committee members shall be elected by the ONA Bargaining Unit Registered Nurses at GSRMC and should be representative of the following clinical areas and shifts: Medical, Surgical, IV, Ambulatory Infusion Services, Perinatal, OR, Short Stay, PACU, ICU, PCU, ER, Cath Lab/Cath, Psychiatric. It is the goal that all shifts be represented. Elections for new members shall be held in the First Quarter Annually.

Special elections may be held at the discretion of the PNCC to replace members who either terminate their employment at GSRMC, move to a job classification, which is not covered by ONA contract, or to replace present members who are unable to fulfill their responsibilities.

These members may be asked by the remaining committee members to vacate their positions. The reasons for requesting a vacation of a position may be, but not limited to, conflicts of interests, non-confidential behavior, non-attendance at committee meetings, or hidden agendas in regard to the improper use of this committee for one’s own personal interests. The filling of a vacancy will be made by appointment by a majority vote of this committee.

Section 4: The ONA Bargaining Unit shall be entitled to initiate a recall of one or more PNCC members if they deem that said member(s)

1) is not representative of the Registered Nurses interests, or

2) is not fulling the responsibilities or membership of PNCC.
Article III – OFFICERS

Section 1: The appointive officers of PNCC shall be a Chairperson or Co-Chairs, Secretary, Workshop Coordinator, and Incident Report Chair. It is the authority of this committee to appoint these positions from its 7 members.

Section 2: Duties shall consist of the following:

Chairperson: The Chairperson attends or finds representation from the committee for the Executive Board Committee and HB 2800 Committee meetings of GSRMC. This is done in such a way as is compatible with the bylaws. Delegates jobs to other members as necessary. Coordinates with the Workshop Coordinator, when decisions are necessary, for the smooth flow of the workshop fund distribution. Sets agenda for the meetings with input from committee members. Required to be the official voice of the committee to administration, unless otherwise designated. Must be representing wishes and feelings of committee who in turn represent the Bargaining Unit of GSRMC.

Secretary: To record minutes of all meetings and distribute copies of said minutes to PNCC members, the Vice President of Nursing Care Services, and the Oregon Nurses Association. To act as a Historian. Arranges for alternate to take minutes if unable to attend meeting. Also responsible for drafting letters as requested by the Chairperson.

Workshop Coordinator: responsible for monitoring the Continuing Education Fund established for the equal use and distribution of all Registered Nurses covered under the current Oregon Nurses Association contract. Works with nursing staff, education, nursing management and accounting to make the flow of paperwork as smooth as possible for the equitable distribution of these funds. The Workshop Coordinator must be an elected member of PNCC and makes reports to the committee on a regular basis regarding functioning of the fund and the money’s available. Makes sure guidelines are updated to meet current needs for equal distribution of funds approved by a quorum vote of the PNCC.

Inadequate/Unsafe Staffing Chair: Elected by members of the PNCC. Collects and reviews current reports received by the PNCC. Contact supervisors/managers involved by letter about reports received and reviews information received regarding inadequate/unsafe reports from stated persons. Sends copies of reports to Vice President of Nursing Care Services and the Oregon Nurses Association.
Article IV – MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular meetings shall be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, unless otherwise ordered by the PNCC. The Chairperson shall prepare an agenda with committee member input. PNCC meetings shall be open to all Registered Nurses at GSRMC. Items may be introduced on the agenda by the attending RN's when the committee finishes its current agenda, or by prior agreement with the Chair. Special Meetings: Attendance is by approval of the committee to any R.N. at GSRMC by prior request. The committee has the responsibility to make the decision for appropriateness of staff attendance at any "Special Meeting." This committee must not be used as a platform for lobbying for one's own "personal" interests. The focal point of the PNCC activities should be those matters which affect the care patients receive and the care nurses give.

Section 2: All suggestions for improving nursing care must be made in writing and signed by the RN making the suggestion. These suggestions are encouraged and may be presented to any member of the PNCC.

Section 3: The administration may request special meetings with the Committee, but such meetings shall not take the place of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Committee, unless the PNCC requests their attendance.

Section 4: Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Article V – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of order Revised by General Henry M. Robert, shall govern this organization, except in such cases as are covered in the bylaws.

Article VI – AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of its member's (4) provided notice was given at the previous meeting. Any amendment may be made to the bylaws of the PNCC by a majority vote by secret ballot of the Bargaining Unit Nurses of GSRMC.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING CARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: REVISED 7/08