



January 30, 2013

Deni Gallileo, Chair
Senate Coordinating Committee
Campus

Dear Dr. Galileo:

I write to affirm my enthusiastic support for the proposed master's program in speech-language pathology. There is tremendous need in this state for speech therapy in the schools and a severe dearth of licensed speech-language pathologists in the state. Additionally, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is projecting increasing national demand for speech-language pathologists.

After extensive studies commissioned by Governors Minner and Markell, including a cost-benefit analysis, the Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn has requested that the UD College of Health Sciences move forward with proposing a curriculum and developing a budget support request for launching this program.

As you know from the academic program proposal, the state has asked for a commitment from the university in the form of an approved curriculum before they will entertain a budget proposal. Although we recognize that this is somewhat unusual, I am hopeful that the Faculty Senate will be willing to do this.

With assistance from several expert consultants, we have developed what we believe is a realistic budget for launching this program. The university Budget Office is currently analyzing our numbers to make sure that there is nothing we have overlooked. Our projections show that the program will be very close to self-sustaining during its fifth year of operation, with modest profits accruing following that. These profits will be needed for equipment maintenance and replacement costs in order for the program to continue to be self-sustaining moving forward.

Financial support from the state for the first five years of program operation is absolutely essential. In the absence of the state's commitment of the full amount projected for the first five years of program operation, we will not launch the program. We will hire no faculty and no course will be offered.

We are very hopeful that the program can be approved by the Faculty Senate, so that we can then proceed with the request to the state to financially support the program. The establishment of the program will help to answer the demand from students in the state wanting to pursue this professional track, and it will begin to meet the need for speech pathologist in the state.

Sincerely,

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