MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Gromko  
Vice Provost for Academic Programs

FROM: Linda Petrosino, Dean  
College of Health and Human Services

DATE: October 26, 2005

RE: Dean’s Response to Program Review (CDIS) Recommendations

Thank you and the Program Committee for the time and care taken in conducting the Program Review for Communication Disorders. I appreciate the opportunity to address each of the specific recommendations made by the Program Review committee and the Departments response to those recommendations. My responses are as follow:

Strategic Planning

All departments and program units in the College are involved in reviewing their strategic plans during the 2005 fall semester. All units will present their plans with their top 3-5 priorities. All plans are due to the College by the end of Fall semester 2005.

Research Support

I agree that the department needs to develop a plan to increase research grant productivity. The department is at a time where several of the newer faculty have reached tenure or will do so shortly. These faculty have established a solid research focus and are now positioned to be successful in their re-submits or new grant proposals. Collaborations within the college, across other colleges and institutions should continue to be encouraged and nurtured. The department is encouraged to prioritize the research progress of the department within their strategic plan. The college will continue to work with the department to identify all possible incentives for an aggressive research program. A plan should be presented to the Dean by the end of Spring semester 2006.

Enrollment

It is clear that the department understands the importance of recruitment, enrollment, enrollment management, retention, and time to degree completion. The department is urged to

“Bowling Green State University aspires to be the premier learning community in Ohio and one of the best in the nation.”
keep these topics as important discussions and to identify strategic goals and timelines related to enrollment and student characteristics desired.

Undergraduate enrollment is beginning to increase and in fact, the 2005 freshman class is up by twenty-five percent. The department should continue its recruitment activities.

Graduate student enrollment continues to be steady and at full capacity. Attention should continue on the high quality of the graduate class and every attempt to increase diversity should be made.

Several of the newer faculty have recently achieved tenure or are in line to soon reach that milestone. These faculty are now ready to take a lead in doctoral education. The department should develop a doctoral recruitment plan that includes specific recruitment strategies that individual faculty will take. Faculty need to develop a plan to establish a student following and stream of students working with them in research. The plan needs to detail activities, modes of recruitment, and timelines. Resources needed should also be identified with strategies to secure those resources. I would be pleased to work with the department in the development or realization of this plan. The plan should be submitted to the Dean by the end of Spring semester 2006.

**Personnel**

The department currently has two tenure-track faculty lines frozen due to budget reduction and the need to allow the departments and the College to complete the current strategic planning process.

The College, in particular, the Department of Communication Disorders, would greatly benefit from hiring a laboratory technician. It took 15 years to finally receive approval and funding for such a position, a search was begun, but it was terminated in 2001 when a mandatory freeze took place. Several subsequent budget cuts have prevented the reinstatement of approval for such a position. It is unlikely that this position will be realized in the near future from an approved college position. The department is encouraged to utilize any opportunity to include technical support within their grants. It is possible to look towards part-time support as may be needed for building laboratories, laboratory design and laboratory repair.

The department should make their personnel requests within the context of their strategic plan and submit to the Dean by January 2006. It will be important to identify the type of faculty and or staff needed to allow the department to reach its goals.

**Campus Speech and Hearing Clinic**

The department has made good progress with the clinic development and plan. The department has expressed a desire to hire a full time clinical audiologist. More work is needed to provide a data base proposal for the need for a full-time clinical audiologist. A plan should be submitted to the Dean by April 2006.
Space

The department is encouraged to provide specific detail relative to its need for additional research laboratory space and to also look at the possibility of rearranging current space to use it more effectively. The College is targeted for additional renovated space within the Health Center as part of the plan to re-locate the Student Health Center into new space. This project has recently been approved for the next biennium by the Board of Trustees. Although the first priority for the newly acquired square footage will be relocating the Department of Medical Technology and its laboratories from Life Sciences over to the Heath Center, all college units will be involved in space planning and CDIS’s need for additional research laboratory space will be considered. The Dean will inform the department of the planning process and timeline when it is identified.

Improving Electrical Equipment

To my knowledge, the reported electrical grounding problems in the research laboratory areas have been resolved. It is important that faculty report any problems that may arise to the Chair for appropriate action.

Assessment

The Department has a long history of a comprehensive assessment program that is regularly and systematically administered and includes formative and summative assessment. The department takes this seriously and uses information from the assessment to make appropriate changes. The department will make annual reports to the Student Achievement Assessment Committee with a copy to the Dean.

The department has some resource challenges but can approach them from a position of being a strong department. I look forward to continuing to work with Dr. Small and the entire faculty and staff of the department. I am confident that with the current good leadership, faculty collegiality, and a focused strategic plan, the Department of Communication Disorders will continue to become even stronger.

Linda Petrosino, Dean
College of Health and Human Services

John Folkins, Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs

10/30/05

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date