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March 29, 2011

To: Mary E. Lidstrom, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President  
Douglas J. Wadden, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Planning

From: Gerald J. Baldasty, Vice Provost and Dean  
James S. Antony, Associate Vice Provost and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

RE: Review of the Doctor of Audiology

This memo outlines the recommendations from the five-year review of the Doctor of Audiology (AuD) program. This program, offered by the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, was approved by the Regents for Autumn Quarter 2004. The AuD is four-year, full-time, partially fee based professional degree that includes external clinical rotations for nine months of the final year. At the time of the Council discussion the program had four professorial faculty and five clinical faculty (four lecturers and one professional staff). Instruction is also provided by adjunct faculty. The program admits about 12 students per year. Detailed comments on the AuD program can be found in the documents that were part of the following formal review proceedings:

- Charge meeting between review committee and administrators (January 19, 2010)
- Doctor of Audiology self-study (March, 2010)
- Site visit (May 3, 2010)
- Review committee report (May 6, 2010)
- Doctor of Audiology response to the review committee report (June 3, 2010)
- Graduate School Council consideration of review (January 21, 2011)

The review committee consisted of:

Kathryn M. Yorkston, Professor, UW Rehabilitation Medicine (Committee Chair)  
Martha Bosma, Associate Professor, UW Biology  
John Ferraro, Professor and Chair, Hearing and Speech, University of Kansas Medical Center

A subcommittee of the Graduate School Council presented findings and recommendations to the full Council at its meeting on January 21, 2011. The Council recognized the strength of the

program and, after discussion, recommended continuing status for the AuD program with future reviews to occur as part of Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences academic program reviews. Specific comments and recommendations regarding the AuD program include the following:

#### Program Strengths

- The AuD program is highly ranked nationally (3rd out of 73), with highly regarded faculty and strong grant support.
- An emphasis on pediatric audiology makes the program unique and attractive to potential applicants.
- It is one of two AuD programs on the West Coast (the other being at San Diego State/UCSD), and one of two in the Northwest (the other being in Idaho).
- There is high demand for the program (about 100 applicants for 12 spots) which leads to high quality students.
- The program has an excellent track record of finding external clinical placements for its students while they are in the degree program.
- Faculty have been responsive to student feedback, modifying the instructional program during its “break-in” period.
- Students are generally very positive about the program.
- The dual AuD/PhD option is attractive for students interested in pursuing an academic career.

#### Challenges & Risks

- The program is understaffed at the professorial level, leading to heavy teaching and administrative loads. Even with the addition of another faculty member (which is presently not anticipated), the program would be significantly smaller than most of its peers.
- The heavy reliance on lecturers and adjuncts (about 40% of classes) is a possible concern for re-accreditation.
- The total tuition is high (at upper end of peer range), leading to a financial burden for many students. There is also a lack of transparency in the complex fee structure.
- Even with high fees, funding the program is a challenge.
- The demand for AuD degrees is likely to rise, and the program will be hard-pushed to meet this need.

#### Areas of Concurrence and/or Disagreement

Recommendations with which the unit is in concurrence, as expressed in the written response:

- Fill the faculty vacancy as addressed by the review committee.
- Do not solve financial problems by increasing tuition and fees.
- Explore ways to alleviate the financial stress of the fourth-year students.
- Evaluate the potential of the Audiology Clinic to provide revenue to the department.

Program Status and Next Review

- The Council concurs with the Review Committee that the program should be granted continuing status and that future reviews should occur as part of Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences academic program reviews.

We concur with the Council's comments and recommendations.

cc: Ana Mari Cauce, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Werner Stuetzle, Divisional Dean of Natural Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences  
Members of the Graduate School Council  
Richard C. Folsom, Professor and Chair, Speech and Hearing Sciences  
Kelly L. Tremblay, Associate Professor, Speech and Hearing Sciences  
David Canfield-Budde, Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School  
Sarah Reyneveld, President, GPSS