

Hertz, Lisa Ann

From: M Freyaldenhoven [melinda@LaTech.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2008 12:15 AM
To: Hertz, Lisa Ann; jsimek; sga1@utm.edu; jschommer@utm.edu; canderson@andersonnews.com; wcarroll@smartbank.net; mrsshoe@frontiernet.net; gcates@maac.net; jhall@hallassoc.net; dhorne@hpiknox.com; rhynette.hurd@sedgwickcms.com; jna2@cableone.net; jmurphy@boultcummings.com; Karl@southlandcapital.com; dstansberry@sprmlaw.net; btalbott@holrob.com; bwolford@wolforddevelopment.com; ken.givens@state.tn.us; tim.webb@state.tn.us; Richard.rhoda@state.tn.us
Cc: phil.bredesen@state.tn.us; Office of the President; Interim Chancellor Jan F Simek; bbursten; Cockrum, Heather Christine; aholt@wkrn.com; spruell.driver@wallerlaw.com; UT News; feedback@wbir.com; news@wbir.com; andrea.loughry@millerloughry.com; jschommer@utk.edu; ayork@utk.edu
Subject: Letter regarding the Depart of AUD & SLP at UT

Dear University of Tennessee Decision Makers:

I'm writing regarding the devastating news that the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology at the University of Tennessee may be eliminated. This program graduates top clinical professionals/scientists in the areas of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology each year. It also graduates many PhD students each year - which are currently in grave need. Throughout the country, there are numerous faculty and clinical positions for which employers have NO applicants. This also demonstrates a need to continue the program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. There is absolutely no way that the other universities in the Tennessee system can absorb this need.

Furthermore, in response to the plan to "Save the Center," which I assume means just the Speech and Hearing Center Building (which is very misleading in itself). The Speech and Hearing Center at UT encompasses the Speech Clinic, and Audiology Program, PLC, and CHS. These programs must continue - and they cannot all fit in the "Speech and Hearing Center Building." Additionally, the plan to eliminate the academic degree granting program and maintain the Hearing and Speech Center is unworkable for several reasons:

1) Without students to provide assessment and treatment services, the clinic becomes a freestanding service provider. The role of the Center is to prepare high quality clinicians to work in professional settings. Its purpose has never been to compete with private practitioners. It is the Center's direct connection to teaching and research that allows it to provide the highest quality of assessment and treatment services to all of our clients in the community. In other words, the teaching and research that are provided by the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology are inseparable from the clinical services.

2) Under state law, University speech and hearing clinics require students to conduct hearing aid assessments and fittings so that there is no conflict with private practitioners. Hence, without students to provide these services, a substantial component of the audiology clinic would not be able to serve the public as it does currently.

In summary, if you separate the academic and clinical facilities - it will be impossible for the "Center" to operate. Additionally, the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology serves a critical need in the region and the state. It provides important professional preparation to students at the University of Tennessee and to professionals in the community through continuing educational offerings. In addition, the departmental clinics serve as research and teaching laboratories and offer the benefit of a much needed public service to the east Tennessee community. Overall, the Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology is a resource within our community and both the community and the state of Tennessee will suffer long term consequences if the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology is terminated.

One additional question I would like to ask you to answer BEFORE you take a vote to terminate this program. WHAT OTHER DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HAS SERVED

AS MANY INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE OF THE UNIVERSITY AS THE DEPARTMENT OF AUDIOLOGY & SPEECH PATHOLOGY? I would venture to say that the answer is less than 5 and this program may be the only service learning program at UT. Therefore, I believe that this Department should NOT be eliminated. In fact, this program should be a model for other programs at the University of Tennessee to follow.

Lastly, I would like to express my concern for this devastating possibility as a previous student and current professional in the field of Audiology. First of all, the academic and clinical training that is provided by this Department is like no other training in the United States. Since graduation, I have been to many other programs, and I feel very confident saying the type of clinical facilities, supervision, and training found in this Department are rarely found elsewhere. In fact, other programs are striving to become a University of Tennessee Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology.

Additionally, the field of Audiology needs this Department for many reasons. One, they are graduating superb professionals. Two, the clinical population being served CANNOT be absorbed into the system.

It is a fact that these individuals will not be served if this program closes, whether you want to believe it or not!! Three, this Department is consistently presenting and publishing much needed research in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Please consider this letter of support for the Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology at the University of Tennessee. If you have any questions, you may contact me directly.

Melinda C. Freyaldenhoven, Ph.D., CCC-A
Louisiana Tech University
Department of Speech
PO Box 3165
Ruston, LA 71272
Phone: 318-257-2146
Fax: 318-257-4492