

DATE: September 17, 2008

TO: Academic Affairs Committee, Academic Senate

FROM: Denise Wilson, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee
Kimberly Nance, Director of Graduate Studies

RE: Executive Summary – Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology Sequence in the M.A., MS. in
Speech-Language Pathology

This proposal requires 16 hours of course work in Descriptive linguistics, Theoretical Foundations of Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages, Cultural Diversity in Communication Disorders, Bilingual Assessment in Speech - Language Pathology and an external clinical practical experience in a bilingual environment. Consonant with the standards of the American Speech and Hearing Association, students in this sequence must also demonstrate proficiency in Spanish through a minimum score of Advanced-Low on the Oral Proficiency Interview administered by the American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages. The sequence is designed to accommodate approximately 6 students annually. This sequence will require salary for one summer course to be taught by an adjunct faculty member; the remainder of the courses are expected to be taught by current faculty within their regular loads. The new sequence will be exceptionally marketable since it addresses an acute need in the state and nation. Currently fewer than 6% of professionals in this field are bilingual or multilingual. The Hispanic population of the United States now stands at 15% of the total, and the Pew Research Center projects that share to reach 29% by 2050.