October 26, 2018

Dear members of the Faculty Senate,

The Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSCD) program is a stand-alone program within the College of Health Sciences. CSCD offers an M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology and a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders. As the Founding Director of the Communication Sciences and Disorders program, I am pleased to support the permanent status of the M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology.

Over the last years, the M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology program has been able to attract a large number of highly qualified applicants. The curriculum that has been developed over the last 4 years is highly unique and appears to be producing highly qualified practitioners (100 percent pass rate on the Praxis National Exam in Speech-Language Pathology). Graduates from the first cohort are all employed in schools and health facilities; 7 in Delaware. The program is in the Candidacy Stage of accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and will be seeking full accreditation in February 2019.

The Communication Sciences and Disorders program has hired outstanding faculty members, all who teach in the M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology. The facilities are state-of-the-art and meet the students and faculty research, teaching, and clinical needs. The UD Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, which provides M.A. students with the majority of their clinical hours during their first year in the program, has gained significant national reputation as one of the most unique university speech-language hearing clinics in the country. The program has developed strong partnership with 39 clinical externship sites throughout Delaware.

The high demand for speech-language pathologists in Delaware and throughout the nation strongly suggests that our graduates will be in high demand for years to come. Our competitive advantage of being in a research-intensive institution has, and will continue to have, a positive effect on the quality of the students we attract and graduate.

I strongly support the permanent status of the M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology.

Sincerely,

Aquiles Iglesias, Ph.D.
Professor and Founding Director