

## Occupational Therapy Assistant Program – Expansion (Kim Moore)

**6 Recommendation of immediate availability of resources in support of the proposal.**

**0 Recommendation for proposal to be held in abeyance.**

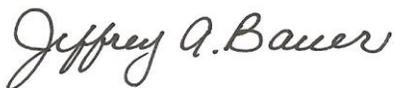
Dear Ms. Moore,

The Academic Resource Management Committee (ARMC) considered your proposal for expansion of the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program to sites at Southern State Community College and the Point in Lawrence County. We recognize that there are outstanding opportunities to offer this degree with a maximum cohort size at each of these sites without attracting students away from our main campus. The investment for a faculty member and laboratory is minimal considering the expected ROI.

The Committee's concern focused on the risk of expanding to both sites simultaneously. Would it be better to open a program at one campus and then, based on that experience, determine whether to add the additional site? If yes, should the first site be Southern State or the Point? After discussion, the Committee agreed that you should pursue both sites immediately and allow information (e.g. availability, costs, partnership agreements) to guide whether one or both sites are developed and the timing of those developments.

**The Committee recommends immediate availability of resources to support your proposal.** ARMC members' comments are given below.

Thank you for your proposal,



Dr. Jeffrey A. Bauer, Provost  
Chair, Academic Resource Management Committee

### **Comments and/or suggestions:**

The proposal would clearly meet a growing occupational need while at the same time expand and strengthen SSU's presence in the surrounding areas. My concern is that since this would require considerable coordination, it might be too ambitious to attempt to go in two different directions at once.

This proposal is well done - substantial data that demonstrate SSU's successful graduate outcomes. The proposed expansion meets state-wide expectations for collaborative and lower cost options for students. This is a wise step toward building a feeder system to the university's main campus. I support this proposal for fall 2017.

This is the type of program expansion that is not only encouraged by the Ohio Department of Higher Education, it has been expressly requested by the prospective partnering intuitions. I appreciate the recommendation that we

begin with a proposal to Southern State Community College for a collaboration and then use that model to take to Lawrence County as future expansion. I recommend immediate use of resources in support of the proposal.

The growth potential for this program would be realized through this proposed expansion, though I share the concerns expressed by President Kurtz and others at our last meeting regarding the current suitability of the South Point location. A partnership with Southern State Community College, which would allow for us to offer this program on the Hillsboro Campus, will help Shawnee meet the recent recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education, which encouraged shared use of state resources. I recommend immediate use of resources in support of the proposal.

This is an excellent proposal and provides the institution with a low risk, high reward option. There are good opportunities for OTA in Lawrence County and at one of the Southern State sites. I think we should be careful with the former because SSU's partnership at the Point is not well understood currently. This expansion should be funded immediately.