



September 3, 2008

Sue E. Ouelette, PhD
Northern Illinois University
School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115

CAA File #100

Dear Dr. Ouellette,

We are happy to inform you that the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) has approved your fifth annual report for the master's program in speech-language pathology and the clinical Doctoral program in audiology.

Your next annual report is due **August 1, 2009**. Approximately three months prior to the due date you will be sent a reminder and an electronic copy of the report format for your use. Please address the attached comments and concerns in your next report.

In preparation for the on-line submission of the CAA Annual Report and Accreditation Application through the Higher Education System (HES), we recommend that your program retain the data submitted in the annual report to use as a reference document for future data entry into the system.

We look forward to continued discussions with you regarding the ongoing development and quality improvement of your program to prepare future professionals in audiology and speech-language pathology. Please let us know if we can assist your program in any way.

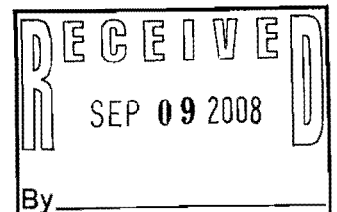
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Swisher'.

Wayne Swisher, PhD, Chair
Council on Academic Accreditation

cc: Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA)
R'Chelle Mullins, ASHA National Office

2200 Research Boulevard, Mail Stop 310
Rockville, MD 20850-3289



COMMENTS AND CONCERNS
Northern Illinois University
CAA FILE #100 – ANNUAL REPORT #5
September 3, 2008

Please respond to the following comments in the next report to the CAA:

Areas for Program Improvement

Std. 2.2 It was reported that searches to fill two faculty positions were unsuccessful. As a result, the program has utilized visiting/temporary positions to maintain an FTE sufficient to administer the program. Please provide an update on the status of the search for the two unfilled positions. Additionally, provide an update on the authorization of a fourth faculty position in audiology, as well as the success of the program in shifting from the use of temporary faculty in audiology to tenure-line faculty.

In Appendix III-A shows that only Kristine Riley, a visiting assistant professor, has research mentoring included as part of her graduate FTE. Please provide an explanation as to how students are given the opportunity to participate in research projects and/or thesis options, and indicate which faculty members assist in this endeavor.

No speech-language pathology faculty, have allocations of time specifically devoted to research mentoring; however, it was reported that SLP graduate students are given an opportunity to participate in research, and some select a thesis option. Please explain how SLP students are given the opportunity to participate in research, and identify those faculty members assigned to mentor these students.

****Please complete these items by the next Annual Review****

General Comments

Std. 1.3 The program is to be commended for the development and implementation of its strategic plan, specifically the infusion of the school plan into the university-wide strategic planning process. Please continue to update the CAA relative to the development of annual goals for the school.

Std. 6.2 The program is to be congratulated on its move to the new Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic and the acquisition of new state-of-the art equipment.