



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

June 12, 2008

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees
719 Andy Holt Tower
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0170

Honorable Members of the Board:

It is with grave concern that I write you regarding the preliminary discussions about closing the nationally ranked Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology at The University of Tennessee – Knoxville. I am the Editor of the *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*, which is premier scientific organ for the disciplines of Audiology and Speech Pathology. My comments will be brief.

The faculty of the Department has a long history of making important contributions to the scholarly literature. The current group of researchers, both academic and clinical, is consistent in this regard. I know first-hand of the quality of their science because I have reviewed the documents they have published. I am also familiar with the scope of their work – No research entity submitted more manuscripts to the *Journal* during my tenure as Editor than the team from UTK. Is there a more compelling gauge of scholarship than publication in peer-reviewed journals?

I have the utmost respect for the accomplishments of the faculty in Audiology and Speech Pathology at UTK. Their research is motivated by relevant questions, which they answer through carefully designed experiments. These talented women and men have a knack for integrating basic science concepts into a framework that produces practical outcomes. In short, I am confident that this group of scholars will continue to provide significant additions to the knowledge bases their respective fields.

To close the Department would dissolve a team that regularly solves key problems in human communication.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Champlin, Ph.D.

Editor
Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research
and
Professor & Chair
Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders
The University of Texas at Austin