SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

August 1, 2011

Dr. Katherine N. High
Vice President for Academic
Affairs and Student Success
The University of Tennessee
825 C. Andy Holt Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996

Dear Dr. High:

Thank you for your letter of May 6, 2011, notifying the Commission on Colleges of organizational changes at the University of Tennessee.

1. Shift in reporting of Men's and Women's Athletics Programs

In 2010, a task force, composed of men's and women's athletic directors, trustees, students, faculty, and staff, recommended that UT Athletics report to the Chancellor of UT Knoxville. The task force report stressed that transfer of the reporting line should not alter the fact that the President of the UT System is ultimately in charge of all the campuses and their officers. The change was approved in June 2010.

We accept the notification and require no additional information.

2. Shift in Reporting of the University of Tennessee Space Institute

The University of Tennessee Space Institute is a graduate degree unit of The University of Tennessee. Faculty at UTSI are members of an academic department at UT Knoxville and UTSI faculty also serve on the UT Knoxville Faculty Senate. Until recently, UTSI was headed by a Vice President who reported to the President. It has been determined that UTSI should be headed by a Chief Operating Officer who should report to the Chancellor of UT Knoxville, effective June 2010.

We accept the notification and require no additional information.

3. Realignment of the Ph.D. Program in Audiology and Speech Pathology

Historically, the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology at the University was housed administratively within the College of Arts and Sciences at UT Knoxville. In 2009, the Department was moved administratively to the College of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center (UTHSC) and clinical rates were aligned with other health science programs.

Undergraduate students who declared their majors in audiology and speech pathology by August 2010, are completing their program. After 2010, all courses will continue to be offered through UT Knoxville's College of Education, Health, and Human Services, and students will be able to earn a degree in special education with an emphasis on communication sciences and disorders. Students can also take these courses as prerequisites to graduate work or as components of other majors.

No curricular changes were made to the graduate programs. The master's degree designation was changed from M.A. to M.S. Information regarding the transition was posted on UT Knoxville and UTHSC websites and students received written notification of the change. The transition had minimal impact on faculty. Physically, the faculty, staff, and students remain in Knoxville on the campus of UT Knoxville. UT Knoxville agreed to continue to provide space, utilities, custodial services, and routine

maintenance at no cost to UTHSC. Graduate students are provided with UT Knoxville student ID cards and have full access to the programs and services of UT Knoxville.

We accept the notification of the transfer of the Ph.D. program in Audiology and Speech Pathology from UT Knoxville to UT Health Science Center and require no additional information.

4. Closing of Master of Social Work Course Offerings in Memphis, TN

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work offers the B.S.S.W., M.S.S.W., and Ph.D. programs throughout the state and maintains a physical presence in Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis. In preparation for a significant permanent base budget reduction, the College of Social Work moved to consolidate the UT College of Social Work Memphis faculty and resources into the Nashville and Knoxville programs and discontinue offering the M.S.S.W. at the Memphis site. The College of Social Work will continue to offer the M.S.S.W. program to the Memphis area through the distance education M.S.S.W. program.

Please provide the following information:

What are the effective termination dates?
How were students and faculty notified of the terminations?
How were students counseled on completing their programs?
How were faculty re-deployed.

Action on the notification will be deferred pending review of the requested information, which should reach my office no later than September 1, 2011.

5. Title Change of Head of Institute of Agriculture

Until June 2010, the Chief Executive Officer of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture held the title of Vice President. In spring of 2010, a request was made to change the title of the head of the Institute of Agriculture from Vice President to Chancellor. The Trusteeship Committee of the UT Board of Trustees approved the action and directed that the record reflect its intention that this is a nominal change and should not be construed to authorize the creation of a separate infrastructure or otherwise change the existing operational relationship between the Institute of Agriculture and UT Knoxville. The action was approved on June 24, 2010.

We accept the change in title of the head of Institute of Agriculture and require no additional information.

Best regards,

Belle S. Wheelan

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW:LBA:efk

cc: Dr. Joseph A. DiPietro, President
Dr. Steven M. Sheeley