BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

OHIO UNIVERSITY
Doctor of Physical Therapy

RECOMMENDATION:

This program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degree programs. The Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study recently voted unanimously for full approval of the previously provisionally approved degree program. There were no serious concerns raised in the review.

Request: Ohio University requests elevation of the former provisionally approved Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program to full approval.

Mission and Background: Ohio University's School of Physical Therapy is dedicated to excellence and leadership in preparing future physical therapists with the knowledge, behavior, and skills required to function within the diverse roles of the contemporary health care environment. The DPT program prepares students to assume leadership roles as physical therapy professionals through autonomous and evidence-based practice, altruism, integrity and ethical conduct, and social and professional responsibility.

On January 16, 2003, the Ohio Board of Regents granted four year provisional approval for Ohio University's new, entry-level professional Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. The reason for the provisional approval status was that it was one of the first of its kind, and the Board had concerns about graduates finding employment within Ohio.

Ohio University's School of Physical Therapy provided a progress report to the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study dated April 21, 2009, and it addressed the effectiveness of the program, employment of its graduates, and professional activities of the faculty. The progress report's data show that seventy-nine percent of the Class of 2008 live and work in the State of Ohio. Graduates have found good positions in facilities of their choice within 6 months of graduation, and most find employment within 3 months of graduation. Seventy-eight percent of the Class of 2009 intends to work in Ohio.

Nationwide, ninety-five percent of DPT programs in the country are now offering the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, so other states have essentially "caught up" with Ohio.

Recommendation: At a recent Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study meeting, the members accepted the April 21, 2009 Progress Report provided by Ohio University on their Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The data show that the academic quality of the program and faculty is viable and that the majority of the program's graduates live and work in Ohio and have found employment within six months of graduation. In a unanimous affirmative vote, the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study endorsed and recommended full approval for Ohio University's DPT degree program.

End of Comment Period: June 23, 2009
No Comments Received: Recommend Approval

Approved:	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	7/23/09 Date

mlc