

M e m o r a n d u m

To: University Senate

From: John Buford, Chair
Council on Academic Affairs

Date: September 1, 2016

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF RESPIRATORY THERAPY DEGREE PROGRAM, SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

WHEREAS the proposal for this professional, non-thesis graduate degree program is aligned with: the evolution of respiratory therapy education and practice; the rapid changes in the healthcare environment where the respiratory therapist is needed to provide and manage patient care through independent supervised practice; and the standards proposed by the Commission on Accreditation of Respiratory Care; and

WHEREAS the focus of the program is “advanced respiratory therapy practice” which emphasizes the science of respiratory care, evidence based practice, and independent supervised clinical practice; and

WHEREAS graduates of the program are intended to be “practitioner-level advanced respiratory therapists” or “respiratory therapist practitioners” with the ability to assess and prescribe – similar to nurse practitioners and physicians assistants; and

WHEREAS the leadership of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and the College of Medicine have ensured that the resources to implement and sustain the program are in place; and

WHEREAS the proposal was reviewed and approved by a combined subcommittee of the Council on Academic Affairs and of the Graduate Council, and then by the full Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on July 6, 2016; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approve the proposal establish a Master of Respiratory Therapy degree program, and respectfully seek approval from the Board of Trustees.