Mary Finn, PhD
Associate Provost of Institutional Effectiveness
Office of the Provost
Georgia State University
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mary:

I support the School of Health Professions (SHP) document for academic program review. The SHP review spans July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008 and is the first review of the School since combining three health professions units: Nutrition, Respiratory Therapy, and Physical Therapy. The transition from individual departments to a school was positive for the college, the units, and the students. Under the leadership of Dr. Lynda Goodfellow as school director, coupled with the support from division heads Drs. Leslie Taylor (Physical Therapy) and Missy Cody (Nutrition) the school has increased their program offerings, expanded courses for non-major students, increased student applicant pools, increased scholarly productivity and remains committed to professional education of the highest quality. In addition, faculty in the SHP serve as leaders in their various professional organizations.

The divisions within the SHP have made significant curricular changes to better meet the needs of the citizens of Georgia by producing graduates with advanced skills. The Division of Physical Therapy changed their program to a clinical doctorate, producing students with a DPT or the terminal clinical degree in the discipline. The Division of Nutrition has recently been reviewed through their accrediting body for a combined or integrated MS degree that meets clinical placement hours so students can take the national registration exam upon graduation. The Division of Respiratory Therapy is expanding their MS program, modeled after the nutrition program, to include an integrated MS making their students more marketable upon graduation.

The projections for health care providers continue to be high in Georgia and the entire country and the SHP is helping to meet the demand. The College of Health and Human Sciences is proud of the accomplishments of the SHP, as reflected in the self-study.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Kelley, Ph.D,
Professor and Dean