

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Barbara D'Ambrosia, Ph.D.  
Chair, Committee on Academic Policies

FROM: Sheila E. McGinn, Ph.D.  
Chair, Department of Theology & Religious Studies

DATE: 13 February 2013

SUBJECT: Spiritual Wellness and Counseling Certificate Program

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I am writing in support of the proposed Spiritual Wellness and Counseling Certificate Program. This proposal has been developed over the last several months in consultation with faculty in the departments of Education & Allied Studies and Theology & Religious Studies, as well as the Deans of the College of Arts & Sciences and of Graduate Studies. The faculty of the Department of Theology & Religious Studies unanimously endorsed this proposal at our department meeting on 28 March 2012.

The need for such a Spiritual Wellness and Counseling Certificate Program is well established in the narrative of the proposal. The paucity of resources that would be provided by this program—not only in NE Ohio but the entire state—make it a particularly appealing new venture. The program meshes well with the health professions focus in the Cleveland area and also with the mission of the University in support of church and society. When we discussed the proposal at our department meeting, several faculty commented on the potential appeal for students pursuing the Theology & Religious Studies MA or the Ignatian Spirituality certificate program. We think it is quite likely that the proposed Spiritual Wellness and Counseling Certificate Program will feed into one or both of these existing programs (and *vice-versa*).

As currently structured in this proposal, the new program could be carried out by leveraging existing university resources and adding one or two part-time faculty. The projected budget demonstrates that the proposed program will be revenue-neutral at first and then will begin to gain revenue for the university.

Overall, this proposed Spiritual Wellness and Counseling Certificate Program seems a well-crafted solution to an existing need in the Cleveland area and the NE Ohio region in general. I wholeheartedly endorse this proposal and urge its quick approval.