To:      Todd Eisworth, Chair, University Curriculum Committee

Connie Patterson, UCC Program Chair

From: David Nguyen, Dean, University College

Date:   July 15, 2023

Re: Suspension of the Correctional Education Program and Print-based courses

After carefully evaluating the Correctional Education Program and our Print-Based Degrees and Programs (including Course Credit by Exam and Special Projects and Print-Based courses), a workgroup recommends suspending admission for this program and course delivery method at Ohio University.

**Rationale:**The decision was reached after considering a myriad of factors that influence the viability of the Correctional Education Program and Print-Based education, including:

* As the program is currently configured, it does not meet requirements of a federally recognized Prison Education Program (PEP). It would be cost-prohibitive to modify this particular program to meet PEP requirements. New incoming students would be better served by a PEP program that may be developed and delivered in a future program iteration.
* The level of resources needed to continue new enrollments in this program exceed what we can commit to new students. Program interest, enrollments and revenue have steadily declined due to the less competitive course offerings amid increased competition. Other institutions in the market can offer technology-supported programming and more robust course selections. This has cut into our market share to such a level that it would be difficult to recover without significant investment.
* Given the reduced course offerings and federal reporting requirements, it would be difficult to maintain the level of student-support staffing needed to grow and sustain the program.

**Effective Date:**We recommend the effective date for the program suspension to be July 15, 2023.

**Impact on Current Students:**The workgroup is in the process of identifying the outstanding degree requirements for students currently enrolled. The institution continues to serve its existing students and is exploring partnerships with other institutions.

**Impact on Faculty:**All faculty supporting Correctional Education and Print-based Education were compensated outside of their formal responsibilities via overload opportunities. We do not anticipate impact on faculty’s primary job responsibilities.

**The process followed to ensure broad input from affected faculty:** No faculty are directly affected by this program suspension.

**Intentions to restart program at a later date (include anticipated date)**: At this time, we do not anticipate a restart of this program as it is currently configured. Other PEP options may be considered in the future.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions, concerns, or comments.

Sincerely,

David J. Nguyen

Dean, University College

**Workgroup Members:**

Carissa Anderson, Associate Vice Provost for Regional Higher Education

Candace Boeninger, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Cary Frith, Chief of Staff to the Provost

Kari Lehman, Vice Provost for OHIO Online

Lewatis McNeal, Vice Provost for Regional Higher Education

Loralyn Taylor, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics