From: Mary Bausano, Assistant Director of Student Services

To: Lee Sanders, Senior Associate Dean

Date: November 14, 2006

RE: Evaluation of Krista McDonald

EDL 110 The University and the Student is a first-year orientation course for students on the Hamilton Campus. During the Fall Semester 2006, 98 students were enrolled in the class which met twice weekly for the first eight weeks of the semester. Students met together as a large group to hear presentations about campus resources and services. Students also met once a week for discussion in groups of 20 or less. Krista McDonald facilitated one of the weekly discussion groups. Ms McDonald, with co-presenter Chris Galluzzo, also provided a session on library services and resources for the large group. It is that presentation which is the subject of this evaluation.

The lecture portion of EDL 110 met at 1:00 P.M. in Room 200 Mosler. Both time of day and physical space offered challenges to our guest speakers. Students are frequently lethargic right after the lunch hour. Room 200, a tiered lecture hall, does not easily support student-instructor interaction. Recognizing this, Ms McDonald prepared a session that required students to get up, move around, and work cooperatively at different “stations” which she had set up around the room. She maintained student interest throughout by humorously awarding prizes periodically to those students who volunteered information and answers. This was very effective in getting students engaged in what could have been a rather “dry” topic.

The main goals of EDL 110 are to educate students about campus resources and to help student develop and practice the skills of classroom engagement and interaction. The library presentation accomplished both of these goals very effectively. Starting with the students’ current level of awareness of library resources, Ms McDonald built upon students’ own experiences to lead the class to a much deeper understanding and appreciation of the library by providing information on the many, many services offered to them through the Rentschler Library, the Miami University library system and Ohiolink.

The presentation was fast-paced, witty, and flexible. Ms McDonald very capably “tossed the ball” back and forth with her co-presenter as new topics were discussed. This made for a seamless presentation. She readily incorporated questions and comments into her prepared power point presentation. Ms McDonald’s manner with students was authoritative, yet friendly. Her enthusiasm about the library and her genuine interest in providing students with facts about the library created a strong impression that the Rentschler Library was a place where students would feel comfortable going to just to study or to seek help from the library staff. As a result, the library presentation stood out as a favorite among the students enrolled in the course this semester.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further information.