



PROPOSAL

SSP 2020/2021-001

I. **Proposal Name: (5 word limit):** Child Study Center Expansion Committee

II. **Committee Assigned/Sponsoring Committee:** Compensation Committee

III. **Proposal Statement:** The Staff Senate respectfully requests the University of Central Oklahoma to formalize the current Child Studies Center Committee by instating it as a University-wide Committee and expanding the committee to include key stakeholders that can aid in the work of this committee to research and champion the expansion of the UCO Child Studies Center.

- **Background:** Since 1965, the Child Study Center at UCO has provided half-day programs for 3-and-4-year-old children. It was the first program to be accredited in Oklahoma in the 1980's. There is currently no other NAEYC accredited program within 28 miles. The program also supports the education, training and research efforts of UCO students and faculty by offering observation experiences while also providing valuable learning experiences for young children and families.

The Child Study Center is open to children of UCO faculty, staff and students as well as children from the metro community. The daily hours are in shifts and vary based on day and age of children. Friday is reserved for planning and cleaning/sanitization.

For over twenty years, UCO has had an active informal committee of campus advocates exploring ways to expand and better serve our student, staff and faculty population, regarding childcare. The Child Studies Center committee has done extensive research and planning to expand and sustain the Child Studies program on campus. The formalization of this committee would expand the stakeholders and resources to push this initiative forward.

Aside from the childcare focus for guardians, the program serves an academic purpose for the university. Thousands of students each semester from the following programs: Early Childhood Education, Childhood Development, Marriage and Family, Psychology and Speech and Hearing use the current facility for their scholarly pursuits. They do this through an observation booth used for entry level classes, which is used in research as well as engaging in learning exercises with children in the program,

In 2016, Staff Senate introduced and passed SSR 2015-2016-008 which stated in part, *Be it resolved that the University of Central Oklahoma Staff Senate wish to make it known our support for research into best practices for childcare services for dependents of UCO students, as well as for ways that the best-fit childcare services may be financed and provided to the UCO campus community.*

In, 2019-20 Staff Senate made Employee/ Family Wellness a Capstone topic for LUCO (Leadership UCO) 16. With the proposal of *Numerous current University of Central Oklahoma employees have expressed a need/want for all-day childcare located on campus. By having a childcare facility on*

campus, employees who utilize the services could potentially feel less stressed, save large sums of money, and have more time to spend with their family members and/or loved ones.

Two of the LUCO groups researched this proposal. One of the groups conducted a survey of faculty and staff, which received 353 responses. In that survey, 97% of the respondents indicated that affordable full-service childcare should be available on campus and 84% of them said they would utilize on-campus childcare services, if UCO offered them. The other group researched funding opportunities and interviewed the current Child Study Center leadership to see what their long-term goals were for the program.

IV. Office(s) Contacted: (List all offices/departments contacted for information and keep record of the conversations in your Senate files.)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Office/Department</u> | <u>Date Contacted</u> |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
| LaDonna Atkin | Child Development/Human Environmental Sciences | Fall 2020 |
| Lindsey Churchill | Committee Chair/History & Geography | Fall 2020 |
| Saasha Reese | Talent Development | Spring 2020 |
| LUCO 16 Group 1 | Leadership UCO | Spring 2020 |

V. Office(s) Affected: (Be specific, as these offices may receive the proposal, if passed.)

President's Office
Child Study Center
Donna Cobb Ed.D, Dean of College of Education and Professional Studies.

Passed by consent of the UCO Staff Senate this 4th day of May, 2021

Scott DeBoard

Scott DeBoard, Staff Senate President