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To: Susan Amussen, Chair, UGC

From: Keith Alley, EVC/Provost

Subj.: Applied Mathematics Program Review Report

Date: November 16, 2010

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of the report from the review committee for the undergraduate program in Applied Mathematics as well as the response to this report by the Dean and the Applied Math faculty. By all metrics the Applied Math group has had significant accomplishments in the five years since campus opening. Although still understaffed for their central role on the campus, they continue to perform at a very high standard as acknowledged in the report from the review committee as well as in the Dean's response to the report.

As outlined in Dean Pallavicini's response, I also am confident that the applied math faculty will continue to grow their faculty ranks in a manner that will allow the capability to address the concerns regarding the diversity of upper division and graduate course offerings. The School of Natural Sciences strategic plan has recognized this need and made recommendations for additional faculty lines in Applied Math during each of the next three years. I would expect that this growth rate would continue well into the future as the enrollment grows.

The Dean has continued to encourage the faculty in applied math to recruit at the senior levels when possible. In fact, we have encouraged the faculty to list searches as Open hires that would include individuals at the Associate and Full Professor ranks to increase the senior leadership available to the program and the School. I am fully supportive of hiring additional senior FTE in the math program and will continue to support this approach in the coming years.

Dean Pallavicini detailed the financial issue associated with the development of a visiting assistant professor program. This year 1.5 FTE were devoted to VAPs to make up the need resulting from a failed search and the departure Professor Michael Sprague who resigned last July. I am hopeful that as the faculty grows the visiting assistant professor program can mature so that the reliance on lecturers for the lower division courses will begin to dissipate over the years.

The overwhelming need for Math 5 instruction has been the biggest impediment to moving forward with diversification of the upper division course offerings. Although the Dean is

supportive of moving Math 5 instruction out of the School and into College One as part of General Education, a legitimate plan for how this could be successful still needs to be developed. Implementation of an approach similar to the Writing Program would carry with it an enormous additional cost for sufficient numbers of lecturers. At this point it may be more meritorious to examine alternative modes of instruction for Math 5 that may provide needed instruction for students ill-prepared for the rigors of college level mathematics.

Cc: Maria Pallavicini, Dean, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Arnold Kim, Chair, Applied Math Program
Christopher Viney, VPUE
Professor Anne Kelley, co-chair SACA
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