

From: Jerry Walsh <JLWALSH@uncg.edu>

Date: Friday, January 26, 2024 at 4:23 PM

To: Chancellor's Office <CHANCELLOR@uncg.edu>, Debbie Storrs <DASTORRS@uncg.edu>

Subject: STEM Programs at UNCG

Chancellor Gilliam and Provost Storrs,

I am sure you have an overwhelming amount of feedback about APR. As a long term faculty member who has seen UNCG grow and prosper over the years, I would like to say a few words about the physics and math programs being considered. While the numbers in the APR report may tell one story, the bigger picture of math and science at UNCG tells another. Math and physics are fundamental areas of knowledge that provide the basis for scientific enterprise at a university. To be a respected university of the size of UNCG, a complementary combination of math, physics, chemistry, and biology are needed for a strong academic curriculum. Students, faculty, and professionals in various venues and organizations will look at the big picture. The lack of an undergraduate physics degree program at UNCG will stick out like a sore thumb in the STEM professional community. In addition, it would be a detriment to the educational experience of UNCG students in the sciences. It would detract from the research programs of faculty who are working in related areas. Also, the Math PhD program has been quite productive during their short history as a PhD program. A perusal of the graduates who completed their degrees in the program and of the publications that have resulted from the PhD program indicates that the program should remain as a valuable component of the UNCG academic offerings and as a significant contributor to the mathematics profession. It certainly adds to the portfolio of quality programs at this aspiring R2 institution. Please consider these above broader implications, and the contributions these two programs make to the bigger UNCG enterprise.

<https://mathstats.uncg.edu/people/alumni/>

<https://mathstats.uncg.edu/graduate/graduate-research/graduate-student-publications/>

Jerry Walsh

Professor and Associate Head

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

UNC Greensboro