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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the continuation of a graduate program of mathematics at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. First and foremost, I would like to comment on the positive representation of UNCG's mathematics graduate program from personal experience in viewing research talks given by current and former graduate students of Prof. Tom Lewis. Specifically, former student Aaron Rapp has been active in presenting his research at several recent conferences and has also co-organized a mini-symposium at the internal conference ICIAM (International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) 2023 held in Japan, Tokyo. At these conferences, I am not only impressed by the research that is presented by Aaron, but I am also impressed with his skills as a teacher and mentor to his own students. I am aware of the skills that Aaron possesses as he and I have had many conversations regarding achieving specific course objectives and have even shared materials developed for our courses. Without proper mentorship by Prof. Tom Lewis, Aaron would not be the excellent teacher/mentor he is today.

Additionally, I recently invited two of Prof. Tom Lewis's current graduate students to give talks at a conference held at Mississippi State University and was impressed with their delivery of their research. The ability to effectively present research requires the same skill set as the ability to teach undergraduate students. Therefore, I can only infer that these two graduate students will also become good teacher/mentors as well.

Finally, I ask that you please consider the following two points before you make the damaging and drastic decision to dissolve the mathematics graduate program at UNCG. First, you would be starting a dangerous trend. More specifically, if all (or even many) other schools take similar steps, we will be left with NO qualified professors to teach mathematics to the next generation of students in areas such as science, engineering, and business. Second, the professors currently employed in the mathematics department at UNCG are of high quality. Even if those professors choose to stay, it is likely that future hires will not have the same level of scholarship as those candidates will be drawn towards universities with graduate programs.

Sincerely,

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