

Letter to Dr. Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr.

Prof. RNDr. Pavel Drábek, DrSc. <pdrabek@kma.zcu.cz>

Thu 1/25/2024 2:44 AM

To:Stephen Tate <srtate@uncg.edu>

Cc:Ratnasingham Shivaji <r_shivaj@uncg.edu>

Dear Mr. Chancelor,

I am writing this letter to support the PhD program in Computational Mathematics at UNCG. This program provides multiple significant benefits to UNCG and it's removal will harm education not only in mathematics but also in the many other disciplines that depend on mathematics.

I had been serving as the department chair in mathematics at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic, during the period 1990 - 2016 and as the graduate program director in mathematics since 1992 until now. Since 2008, when the graduate program in computational mathematics at UNCG was founded, me and some of my former PhD students have had a long standing relationship with both faculty and students at UNCG. During this long lasting cooperation we shared some common problems, conducted research and published several results in internationally recognized journals. I am convinced that these contacts provided important benefits for both sides. I know personally several UNCG graduates in computational mathematics who occupy important positions either at universities as well as in state or private companies.

I do not understand the intention to terminate the graduate program in computational mathematics because it's presence at UNCG also supports excellent faculty who are producing valuable scholarship. They also bring excellent visitors to Greensboro to give talks and to collaborate on various research problems. Students at all levels also benefit from the exciting opportunities to interact with these visitors. The loss of the graduate program at UNCG will inevitably lead to the loss of good faculty and the loss of above mentioned great opportunities for students.

As a fellow of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic since 2003 I am aware of the importance of the interdisciplinary cooperation in research and science. Mathematics and, in particular computational mathematics, play a special role in these interactions. Termination of the graduate program at UNCG would cause the uncorrectable damage of these values and eventually would lead to much higher financial loss which would prevail the sum which seems to be saved by doing this unfortunate administrative decision.

Taking into the account all arguments mentioned above, I strongly encourage the administration at UNCG to reconsider this decision. It will harm the university in multiple ways at all levels.

Sincerely,

Pavel Drabek

Full Professor of Mathematics

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