

my support for UNCG math graduate program

Feng, Xiaobing Henry (Xiaobing Feng) <xfeng@utk.edu>

Wed 1/24/2024 2:29 PM

To:Stephen Tate <srtate@uncg.edu>

Cc:Feng, Xiaobing Henry (Xiaobing Feng) <xfeng@utk.edu>

Dear Dr. Tate,

I am writing this email to express my strongest support for your department's [statement](#) on APR review recommendations. It is beyond my understanding and comprehension of UNCG Provost Storrs' proposal to discontinue a successful and thriving Ph.D. program in Computational Mathematics in your department as this would go against the APR committee's recommendation and the opinions/judgment of the college and departmental leadership teams and faculty, and the law of leadership and success. I strongly believe that UNCG should build on its strengths and strengthen this math program to make it even better by providing more resources.

In the past eight years, I got to know and collaborated with several younger colleagues who joined your department and have known your Ph.D. program in Computational Mathematics from its birth. I witnessed its growth and rise to the current level. It took a great deal of effort by your department and your colleagues to build such a successful and promising graduate program in such a short period. My opinion is confirmed by the APR committee's report. In the last few years, your department has hired excellent faculty in computational and applied math as well as data science. Several of those colleagues have published research papers in the top journals in computational and applied math and were awarded multiple NSF research grants. The program has kept producing outstanding graduates who were able to find quality employment upon their graduation. All these achievements have earned a reputation in the community for your Ph.D. program in Computational Mathematics. It will be very sad and heartbreaking to dismantle the hard-earned/built program, especially for no good reason. It definitely will not help to achieve the provost's stated goal, in my humble opinion, it would achieve the opposite.

In summary, I strongly suggest and support UNCG not only to keep the successful and thriving Ph.D. program in Computational Mathematics but also to strengthen the program. Discontinuing the program is absolutely the wrong step to take, the potential damage of such a move will be devastating and irreplaceable. I sincerely hope that such a calamity will not occur.

Best wishes,

Xiaobing H. Feng, Ph.D. (he/him/his)
Professor and Head
Department of Mathematics
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996, U.S.A.
(865) 974-2463 (Office)
(865) 974-6576 (Fax)
<https://sites.google.com/utk.edu/xfeng>