

Writing in support of the UNCG PhD program

Mason, Sarah <masonsk@wfu.edu>

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To: Stephen Tate <srtate@uncg.edu>

To Chancellor Franklin Gilliam,

The doctoral program at UNC-Greensboro a valuable asset to the mathematical community and it would be a real shame to see it discontinued. I am a faculty member at Wake Forest University and have personally seen students from our program opt to get their PhD in mathematics from UNC-G rather than a larger and more intense environment at a bigger institution. The program provides an avenue for students who might need a bit more nurturing and individual attention, and we recommend it to those students. The program at UNC-G also serves a more diverse group of students than many PhD programs; at a time when more and more students from disadvantaged backgrounds are making their way into PhD programs it would be very disappointing to have one of the programs that serves this community cancelled.

Wake Forest masters students and undergraduates would be impacted by this major change, as well as our mathematical community as a whole. To my knowledge, UNC-G holds the only Mathematics PhD program in the triad area, so it would be a great loss to our local community in particular.

Many of your talented faculty were likely drawn to UNC-G in part due to the PhD program, and I would expect that the university would lose faculty and have a difficult time hiring replacements. The quality of all the UNC-G students' education would be negatively impacted by this decision.

I really hope that you will strongly reconsider this decision; discontinuing the PhD program at UNC-G would be a huge step in the wrong direction for the institution, the local community, and the mathematical community as a whole.

Sincerely,
Sarah Mason
Professor of Mathematics
Wake Forest University

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Dr. Sarah K Mason (she/her/hers)
Professor of Mathematics
Wake Forest University
334 Manchester Hall
Winston Salem, NC 27109
masonsk@wfu.edu
336-758-4358