

Statement in support of the PhD program in Computational Mathematics at UNCG

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To:Stephen Tate <srtae@uncg.edu>

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the PhD program in Computational Mathematics at UNCG. This program provides multiple significant benefits to the University. Its removal will harm education at all levels, and the clear consequence will be diminished strength in education and in scholarship not only in mathematics but in the many disciplines that depend on mathematics.

I am the department chair in mathematics at Wake Forest University and I have had a long standing relationship with both faculty and students at UNCG. A number Wake Forest students have obtained their graduate degrees at UNCG. Three of my own thesis students, at both the undergraduate and masters level, went on to study in the graduate program at UNCG. One of those students now works on a biostatistics research team in Raleigh and the other two are math professors at UNC Pembroke and at Appalachian State. The PhD program in computational mathematics is clearly serving its students well.

The presence of a strong graduate program at UNCG also supports excellent faculty who are producing valuable scholarship. I have collaborated with several faculty at UNCG to publish papers in excellent journals. I have also benefited from the many programs at UNCG that bring excellent visitors to Greensboro to give talks and to collaborate on important 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 great opportunities for students.

It should also be pointed out that the graduate students in the computational mathematics program are an essential part of the teaching of mathematics at UNCG. Especially at the introductory level. They bring youthful enthusiasm and intellectual vigor to that enterprise, and they gain valuable experience while they polish their teaching skills. As I mentioned above several of my former students continued their graduate training at UNCG and are now outstanding faculty members at other institutions in NC. The program at UNCG helped them to become the excellent teachers that they are.

Finally, could there be any better example of the connection between outstanding scholarship and outstanding teaching than the work of Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji. He is an internationally recognized scholar and played a key role in creating and developing the PhD program at UNCG. He is also well known as an exceptional teacher and was recognized for his teaching with an important award by the Mathematical Association of America.

I strongly encourage the administration at UNCG to reconsider this decision. It will harm the university in multiple ways at all levels.

Sincerely,
Stephen B. Robinson, Taylor Professor and Department Chair in Mathematics
Wake Forest University.