



Support for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UNC Greensboro

January 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, which is facing the prospect of having its doctoral program terminated.

I have had the pleasure of attending a minisymposium organized by a member of this department, and I can attest to the high quality and significant impact of their research. The work being done there is not only academically rigorous but also highly relevant to a range of application areas, including Optimal Control, Materials Science, and Mathematical Biology. Furthermore, the department's commitment to mentoring and teaching is evident through the success of their graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) and PhD graduates, many of whom have secured tenure-track teaching positions. This success underscores the department's role in nurturing the next generation of mathematicians and educators.

The decision to consider terminating such a valuable program is alarming, particularly when considering the broader implications it holds for the mathematical research and teaching communities. The department's success in both research and mentoring should not be overlooked. I understand that this decision is being made under the pretext of refocusing efforts on service-level teaching, based on assumptions that may not accurately reflect the department's contribution to the university and the wider academic community. It is crucial to consider the long-term ramifications of such a decision, not just for UNC Greensboro but for the academic community as a whole.

Therefore, I urge the decision-makers in this matter to reconsider the proposed termination of the doctoral programs in Mathematics at UNC Greensboro. The loss of these programs would be a significant blow to the mathematical community and would set a concerning precedent for other institutions.

Thank you for considering this appeal. I am hopeful that a reconsideration of this decision will lead to a more favorable outcome for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UNC Greensboro, its students, and the broader academic community.

Sincerely,

Xiaochuan Tian

Assistant Professor

Department of Mathematics

University of California, San Diego

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Xian'.

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