

January 30, 2024

Re: Discontinuation of fundamental STEM fields at UNCG

Dear Chancellor Gilliam,

In these days of the obvious, ever-increasing importance of STEM fields, I found it hard to believe when I heard that UNCG is terminating its thriving PhD program in Computational Mathematics and its undergraduate Physics degree. When I followed up and verified this from your public announcement posted on the internet, my mood changed from one of surprise to one of embarrassment for UNCG, for you, and for Provost Storrs (remarkably spelled “Stores” on your public announcement.) I also felt pity for my UNCG STEM colleagues, who are now dealing with an embodiment of Schiller’s famous line: “Against ignorance the gods themselves contend in vain.”

I unfortunately do not have the tact that most of my colleagues have, so I will be blunt: making this move will deeply damage the reputation of UNCG at all levels. Whether or not this decision is born out of ignorance or out of some twisted political purpose, it is a stunningly bad one. It will reflect on you and on Provost Storrs for the rest of your careers and, more importantly, will cause irreparable damage to UNCG. I urge you to reconsider this decision.

Yours sincerely,



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and Sciences