



September 26, 2019

Department Chair's comment on the Program Performance Review Panel Report

I would first like to thank the Panel for their thoughtful review of our document and their time visiting with CSUF Math stakeholders. I also would like to thank Dean Marie Johnson and her office for organizing the visit and being a positive and supportive presence.

The report from the Panel is broken up into three parts: *Commendations*, *Issues for Improvement*, and *Recommendations*. It pleases me greatly to know that the culture we've intentionally tried to build over the last decade or two exists and is visible to others: A strong undergraduate research environment; A clear and fair RTP process; An innovative MS Statistics program; A positive and collegial environment. This would only be possible by prioritizing excellent hiring, which we have put a tremendous amount of time and effort into.

We continue to be in an uncertain financial situation. In the past it was due to a major economic recession, while now it is due to the lack of visibility and budget. The College of NSM has begun to implement a program to improve on this visibility, but there is some anxiety on what the impact will be on departmental operations at the conclusion. Through some accounting that is unclear to me, it appears the department has been routinely hundreds of thousands of dollars over budget. There is no way to make this deficit up without a major shift for the worse in how we do business. This was squarely behind the good-faith effort by the previous chair to save money by increasing class sizes. As was noted by the Panel, this has had significant negative consequences.

The Panel also took aim at a real problem in hiring in high demand areas (statistics, computational applied math, and I would add actuarial science, another hot growth area for our department). I agree that we need leadership to provide a way through this very complex issue in order to protect our strongest programs.

The issues of the new CHRS hiring system and graduate admissions process have begun to be addressed. It is hard to tell at this early stage (particularly with the former) if there will be a satisfactory resolution, but I am hopeful. It will depend on another issue brought up by the panel: Whether or not there will be meaningful shared governance. I am confident this will be the case at the college level, but we will need cooperation at all levels to be successful.



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

College of Natural Science and Mathematics

Department of Mathematics

800 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton, CA 92831 / T 657-278-3631 / F 657-278-3972

As chair, I will continue to work on my end to address the important issues raised by the panel, and I am hopeful that in the next review, we will be able to report on the successful maintenance of our commendations, and the successful resolution to the Panel recommendations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfonso F. Agnew
Professor and Chair
Department of Mathematics
Gravitational Wave Physics and Astronomy Center

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