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COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND REVIEW

14-15 CAPR 20  
Thursday, April 16, 2015

**TO:** The Academic Senate

**FROM:** The Committee on Academic Planning Review (CAPR)

**SUBJECT:** 14-15 CAPR 20: Request for dissolution of the Math & Computer Science Department

**PURPOSE:** For consideration by the Academic Senate

**BACKGROUND:**

At its April 16, 2015 meeting, CAPR reviewed the request to dissolve the Math & Computer Science department in preparation for the formation of separate Math and Computer Science departments. This request stems from the growth of Computer Science, the unwieldy task of managing the two large programs as one department, and the confusion that the department would yield a joint degree to its students. There were no guests from the Math & Computer Science Department, and no questions from CAPR regarding the request.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

CAPR unanimously approved the request from CSCI and Math & Computer Science to dissolve their department and asks that the Academic Senate recommend the dissolution to the President; upon President's signature, effective Fall 2015.



REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FORMATION, DISSOLUTION, NAME CHANGE OR MERGER OF ACADEMIC UNITS

CURRENT UNIT NAME: Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

TYPE OF CHANGE REQUESTED:

\_\_\_ Formation; \_\_\_X\_\_\_ Dissolution; \_\_\_ Name Change; \_\_\_ Merger New Unit

NAME: None

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CHANGE (catalog date):2015

CRITERIA OR REASON FOR THIS ACTION:

The field of Computer Science originally grew from Mathematics. At that time, there was some overlap in the two fields, and it was not possible to earn a PhD in Computer Science, so Mathematics faculty would teach Computer Science and Mathematics courses. As a result, it was advantageous to house both programs in the same department as was done here at CSUEB. PhD programs in Computer Science started to be established in the late 60s and early 70s, both producing the necessary PhDs in Computer Science and establishing a rich field of academic endeavor distinct from Mathematics. As a result, a combined department is no longer necessary as the department faculty have clear roles in either the Mathematics or Computer Science programs. In addition, the large size and the very disparate programs included in the current Mathematics and Computer Department has made it difficult to manage and unwieldy for the faculty members to address university requirements including assessment and program review. A division into two separate units would greatly facilitate management and provide the opportunity for the individual units to directly address their own concerns. In addition, separation into two departments would eliminate any confusion that the program was a joint degree in Mathematics and Computer Science as opposed to separate programs in each.

A. MISSION OF THE ACADEMIC UNIT:

- How does the proposed name/unit more clearly fit the mission of the academic unit?

The new department names will make it clear that majors will pursue degrees in Computer Science alone or Mathematics alone as opposed to a possible mix of Mathematics and Computer Science as implied by the original unit name.

- Does the change reflect a change in the unit's mission? Explain

Yes, the Department of Computer Science will offer degrees in Computer Science only and the Department of Mathematics will offer degrees in Mathematics only, as opposed to a single department offering both.

B. CURRICULAR IMPLICATIONS:

- Does the new name/unit reflect past changes in curriculum? Explain

No, all courses in both proposed units will remain the same.

- Does it reflect plans for future curriculum changes? Explain (attach if needed)

No, the degree requirements of all programs housed in the two proposed separate units will remain the same.

- Do any planned changes impinge on other academic units? Explain

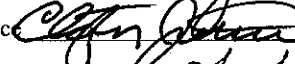
No, as all class offerings will be the same, no other units will be affected.

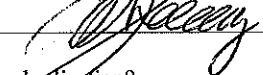
- Which other units have been consulted?

Dr. Matt Johnson, Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science was consulted and gave his approval.

The entire Department of Mathematics and Computer Science regular faculty discussed this change of status, and gave their strong approval by a vote of 19 favoring the change, 0 against, with one abstention.

Dean Michael Leung of the College of Science was consulted and supports the proposed change.

Matt Johnson, Chair, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science  signature/date 3/17/15

Michael Leung, Dean College of Science  signature/date 3/18/15

- What are the plans for avoiding unnecessary duplication?

The program in Computer Science and the program in Mathematics are distinct from one another. There are no plans to duplicate courses in the two separate departments.

C. EFFECT ON THE UNIVERSITY:

- How will the new name/unit assist students in finding the program they need?

The creation of two separate units will clearly delineate the two programs. This will eliminate any confusion that the program was a joint degree in Mathematics and Computer Science.

- How does the new name/unit make clear the differences between the academic unit and others in the University?

There are no units within the University which would be easily confused with Mathematics or Computer Science.

- What are the resource/cost implications of the change?

The two separate units will continue to share office space and office staff as they currently do. The two separate departments will require two chairs, however, as opposed to the single chair for the one combined department. The Dean of College of Science has agreed to provide space in the shared department office, assigned time, and Department Chair stipends for both chairs.

- Will there be any effect on retention, promotion, and tenure policies?

On consultation with the Office of the <sup>Associate</sup> ~~Assistant~~ Provost, there are no RPT issues to be addressed.

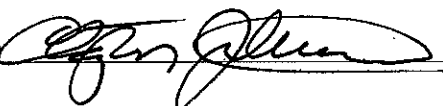
- For formation/merger, how will the unit head be determined?

Not applicable

D. COMPARISONS:

- What names are used for comparable academic units in other Universities in the CSU System and nationwide?

Not applicable

Approval of the Department Chair/Director (s)  date 3/17/15  
date \_\_\_\_\_

Approval of the College Curriculum Committee/Council NA date \_\_\_\_\_

Approval of the Dean  date 3/18/15

Approval of the AVP APGS  date 3/30/15

Approval of the Provost/VPAA  date 4/3/15