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COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND REVIEW

18-19 CAPR 10
Thursday, February 21, 2019

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning Review (CAPR)

SUBJECT: 18-19 CAPR 10: CAPR Report of Mathematics 5-year program review

PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: Acceptance of the Five-Year Program Review of the Department of Mathematics; it is recommended that the program continues without modification.

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BACKGROUND:

At its meeting on February 21, 2019, CAPR members unanimously approved the [Five-Year Review of the Department of Mathematics](#). This approval was based on conversations with the lead writer of the report and Chair of Mathematics, Dr. Julie Glass during a CAPR meeting (Fall, 2018) and via conversations with the CAPR liaison. The summary document provided was reviewed and approved by the Math Department Chair. The summary of the five-year review is attached to this memo. It is recommended that the program continues without modification.

Following approval of this memo by the Senate, the Provost will review the summary and meet with members of the Math Department and the CAPR chair at a time mutually agreeable during the Spring 2019 term to devise a clear 5-year plan moving forward. The Provost will then create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Math Department and return that MOU to the Senate as an information item as soon as possible (completion of a MOU may require extension into the following Fall semester given scheduling timelines).

1 DATE: February 8, 2019
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3 FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Review (CAPR)
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5 RE: Five-Year Program Review for the Department of Mathematics

6 BACKGROUND

7 At its meeting on December 6, 2018, CAPR invited the Chair of the Department of Mathematics
8 to present and discuss the five-year review for the programs in Mathematics. The department had
9 submitted its five-year review during the 2017–18 academic year. At the time of the meeting it
10 was still awaiting a report from the external reviewer. This report was submitted on December
11 17, and the department’s response on December 18.

12 FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW/SELF-STUDY

13 The self-study is quite thorough. In its previous five-year review the Department laid out five
14 goals, some of which were broad and open-ended (e.g., improve student experience), and others
15 more concrete (e.g., hire tenure-track faculty). They have made clear progress on both sets of
16 goals. For example, they have made significant changes to their major program and service
17 courses to improve the learning experience, and they have hired 3 tenure-track faculty. One of
18 the most significant of their goals was to consider splitting from the former Department of
19 Mathematics and Computer Science, which they have done. In addition, the Department has
20 reacted to significant external changes due to semester conversion and CSU Executive Orders
21 that removed developmental math. These last changes began in the 2018–19 academic years.

22 OUTSIDE REVIEWER’S COMMENTS & THE DEPARTMENT’S RESPONSE

23 The outside reviewer met with faculty, the dean, staff, and students. Her report commends the
24 Department’s efforts to improve education for both majors and non-majors, and address internal
25 and external challenges. She notes the difficulty of balancing major and service courses, keeping
26 up with faculty departures, and managing a department with limited resources. The department’s
27 response acknowledges these challenges and discusses many of the successes they have had
28 recently.

29 PROGRAM’S FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

30 The Department’s five-year plan addresses their curriculum, learning outcomes and assessment
31 plan, student success, faculty work and support, and resource allocation. Many of these are
32 changes that were proposed in the 17–18 academic year and are being implemented beginning
33 this year, especially in curriculum and assessment.

34 CAPR ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRAM’S FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

35 The Department of Mathematics plays a critical role in the University educating students in
36 almost all other disciplines, in addition to their own majors. They need the resources to support
37 their students, maintain instructional faculty, and to develop professionally and keep up to date
38 with their field.

39 CAPR RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM

40 CAPR recommends that the programs continue without modification. The Department's
41 proposed goals for the next five years are admirable.

42 DATE OF THE PROGRAM'S NEXT FIVE-YEAR REVIEW: SPRING OF 2022–2023
43 ACADEMIC YEAR