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.

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).
BACKGROUND

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

FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW/SELF-STUDY

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

OUTSIDE REVIEWER’S COMMENTS & THE DEPARTMENT’S RESPONSE

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

PROGRAM’S FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

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

CAPR ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRAM’S FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

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

CAPR RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM
CAPR recommends that the programs continue without modification. The Department’s proposed goals for the next five years are admirable.

DATE OF THE PROGRAM’S NEXT FIVE-YEAR REVIEW: SPRING OF 2022–2023

ACADEMIC YEAR