PURDUE
UNIVERSITY
NORTHWEST

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

February 20, 2020

Jay Akridge, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity
Purdue University

Dear Provost Akridge,

In response to our campus wide efforts to promote sustained growth and more effectively allocate resources to high-potential strategic areas, Dean K. Chris Holford from the College of Engineering and Sciences has requested that the Computer Science (CS) programs undergo a structural reorganization into a stand-alone department within the School of Engineering (SoE). The proposal for structural change was reviewed by the department and college, strongly supported by the consensus of faculty in CS, and unanimously endorsed by the Faculty Senate at the January 17, 2020 meeting (FSD 19-14). We submit this recommendation for structural change to your office for review, consent, and inclusion on the agenda for Board of Trustees approval.

CS programs have been widely recognized as an investment opportunity in our campus strategic efforts. Broad enrollment challenges have reinforced the need to strategically rethink operations and reallocate resources with the intent of enhancing growth opportunities. The proposed reorganization, which would also be more consistent with the structure at PFW, will provide CS with more visibility and access to additional resources shared within the SoE. Structurally, this move would create a third department within the SOE, which also includes a Department of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, and a Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. We believe that this grouping will provide for more natural synergies in teaching and scholarship, and promises to increase the status as the program is moved toward ABET accreditation.

As of the fall 2019 census CS enrolled approximately 158 undergraduate majors and 28 graduate students, making it the fifth largest major in the college. CS programs have been steadily growing in majors (average of +16% per year)[1], as well as credit hour generation (average of +9% per year)[1] since unification. This makes support for sustained growth a central issue. The current organization of the CS program within a multi-unit division has effectively neutralized appropriate resource support for strong and sustained growth, and has limited our ability to competitively market the program within the region.

The CS program is presently housed in a divisional arrangement within the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science (MSCS), where embedded CS faculty members oversee the respective degree programs. As a practical measure, we are requesting that the current Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science (25 total full-time faculty) be restructured into a Department of Computer Science (initially with 4 faculty), and a separate Department of Mathematics and Statistics (with 21 remaining faculty). All four CS faculty members are tenured (1 professor, 3 associate professors), so faculty personnel decision should not be affected by the move. Furthermore, the approved *Academic Tenure and Promotion Policies and Procedures* provide mechanisms for

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1.   Data provided by PNW Institutional Research

representation by smaller departments on these important committees. Regardless, we would like to accomplish the proposed structural changes before hiring any new faculty into either unit.

Where applicable, differential fees at PNW have been implemented at the college/school level. Since one has been approved for the SOE, all units within the SOE have an existing differential fee, and this, too, would apply to CS once it becomes part of the SOE. (This same result would occur, for example, if the SOE were to establish a new department, as opposed to absorbing one from another school as in this case.) In order to avoid disrupting expectations of current CS students, however, we are requesting that the differential fee be applied only to incoming freshmen and transfer students, such that it be phased in incrementally as new students are admitted to the program. Going forward, the differential fee will automatically be applied to CS when tuition and fees are determined for the SOE in future budget cycles.
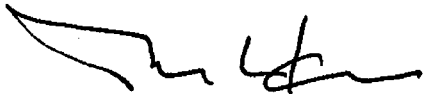
Specifically, we propose additional fees for <u>Computer Science</u> programs be identical to differential fees approved for the SOE. The fees approved by the Board of Trustees for FY21 are listed below:
- *Undergraduate: $281.52 per semester per fulltime student (>12 credit hours) $225.26 per semester per part-time student (<12 credit hours and summer term with one charge for summer, regardless of sessions enrolled).*
- *Graduate: $308.07 per semester per fulltime student (>8 credit hours) $251.09 per semester per part-time student (<8 credit hours and summer term with one charge for summer, regardless of sessions enrolled).*

Based on the above fees and using current year new admissions and transfer enrollments to this program, we anticipate approximately $28,324.00 per year in additional revenue. Revenue will, of course, be affected as fees are adjusted and enrollment increases in subsequent years. With the exception of the differential fee for support of the academic program, we intend to cover the other administrative and office costs by reallocating resources from within the college. This move is consistent with our broader strategic realignment of resources to growing units.
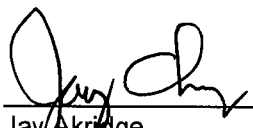
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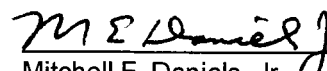
Sincerely,

Thomas L. Keon
Chancellor

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL: APPROVED:

_____ 3/9/20   _____ 3/11/20
Jay Akridge   Date   Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.   Date
Provost and Executive Vice President   President
for Academic Affairs and Diversity