

Paul G. Allen School Funding and Enrollment History

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July 2007

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Here is “a brief history of the Paul G. Allen School,” omitting some minor perturbations for the sake of clarity:

- 1967-68: Established as the Computer Science Group, an interdisciplinary graduate program reporting to the Graduate School. Housed in Roberts Hall.
- 1968-69: Jerre Noe recruited from Stanford Research Institute (now SRI International) as first chair.
- 1974-75: Had reached 9.0 tenure-track FTE faculty: 5 transferred from other UW units, and 4 hired externally. (Throughout, “FTE” refers to faculty on-board, not “authorized strength.”) Departmental status conferred as the Department of Computer Science, an inter-college unit reporting to both the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Engineering.
- 1975-76: Had reached 11.0 tenure-track FTE. Received 4 additional faculty positions for introducing a Bachelors program in Computer Science that would award 40 degrees per year. Relocated to Sieg Hall.
- 1979-80: Had reached 13.0 tenure-track FTE. Provost moves the department to the College of Arts & Sciences (eliminating the reporting relationship to the College of Engineering).
- 1983-84: Had reached 17.0 tenure-track FTE. Received 7 additional faculty positions for growing the Bachelors program in Computer Science to 80 degrees per year. Graduate program ranked #9 nationally by the National Academies.
- 1988-89: Had reached 22.0 tenure-track FTE. Provost moves the department to the College of Engineering as the Department of Computer Science & Engineering. Received 1.83 FTE of partial appointments of EE faculty, plus 6 new faculty positions for introducing a Bachelors program in Computer Engineering that would award 40 degrees per year. (This was an explicit legislative budget line.)
- 1996-97: Had reached 29.83 tenure-track FTE. Received 5 additional faculty positions for introducing a Professional Masters Program that would award 40 degrees per year. (This was an explicit legislative budget line.) Also received a special position for a senior recruitment.
- 1999-00: 29.67 tenure-track FTE. Received 6 additional faculty positions for growing our Bachelors programs by 40 degrees per year (for a total of 160 Bachelors degrees per year). Also received 3 additional faculty positions for research initiatives. (UW chose to fund the Bachelors expansion out of general institutional enrollment funds rather than a high-demand initiative which was available that year, although startup funds were obtained through an explicit legislative budget line to the HEC Board.

The 3 research-related positions were explicit legislative budget lines.)

- 2002-03: Provost converts Professional Masters Program from state-funded to self-sustaining.
- 2003-04: Relocated to the Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science & Engineering. We had grown to the point where Sieg Hall, which had housed us since 1975, was providing only 30% of the space per FTE of our peers. The Allen Center – UW’s first largely-privately-funded building – was designed to put us at 80% of peer-average space at the size we were in 2001.
- 2007-08: Had reached 40.67 tenure-track FTE. Legislature provides high-demand funding to UW. Originally, the Provost planned to allocate none of this to CSE. After much tussle, with some funds coming from the Dean of Engineering, CSE received 7 new faculty positions to grow the Bachelors program from 160 to 184 degrees per year (50% of what we had requested), add a 5th-year Masters program producing 10 degrees per year, and add 20 FTE Ph.D. students producing an additional 4 Masters and 3 Ph.D. degrees per year.
- 2008-09: Had reached 43.17 tenure-track FTE. 1 position received from the Dean of Engineering for the ExCEL initiative.
- 2009-10: At 42.67 tenure-track FTE. Budget cuts rescind all of the 2007-08 funds, and more. All enrollment increases are rolled back with the exception of the 5th-year Bachelors/Masters program, which we continue at a nominal level (although unfunded) in fairness to our students.

At this point we are funded for – and producing – roughly 160 Bachelors degrees per year, 80 Masters degrees per year (45 from the Professional Masters Program and 35 from Ph.D. students), and 20 Ph.D. degrees per year. Given the 2009-10 rollback of the 2007-08 enrollment funding, it is fair to say that our most recent enrollment growth had been funded in 1999-00.

- 2012-13: At 45.17 tenure-track FTE. After 12 years, we are finally funded for additional growth – to approximately 315 degrees per year (200 Bachelors degrees) – in this case through a legislative directive to UW to use internal funds to support additional enrollments in Engineering programs. (This is sometimes referred to as Proviso 1, even though it did not involve new funds. The Legislature became aware that UW had spent a previous allocation, intended for Engineering programs, in other ways, and directed UW to “make Engineering whole.”)
- 2013-14: At 47.17 tenure-track FTE. Growth funded, to approximately 395 degrees per year (250 Bachelors degrees). (This is referred to as Proviso 2, funded effective July 1 2013.)

In 2014 – following Proviso 2 – we began discussions with Reps. Drew Hansen and Chad Magendanz. At this time we were granting roughly 310 degrees per year, and we were funded for roughly 395 degrees per year. Drew and Chad undertook to grow us to double our current degree count (that is, to $2 \times 310 = 620$), by funding the 225 additional degrees that would be required (above the currently funded 395). \$8 million per year was established as the cost of this. The plan was to implement this growth over two biennia, adding \$2 million per year to our budget.

- 2015-16: Proviso 3. At 52.50 tenure-track FTE. Half of the total planned growth was funded over the two years of the biennium, to approximately 505 degrees per year (345

Bachelors degrees).

2017-18: Proviso 4. Instead of allocating us the planned \$2 million in the first year of the biennium and \$4 million in the second year (completing the \$8 million per year budget increment to double our degree production), the biennial budget allocated only \$1 million in each year, and used broad language. The Dean of Engineering gave us \$0.5 million annually from Proviso funds, and \$0.5 million in ABB funds, allocating the other \$0.5 million in Proviso funds to other Engineering units. We have no idea what the point of this was, but any rate, there was a clear commitment to not count the ABB funds as “an ABB allocation” since these funds were a replacement for Proviso funds that the Legislature had intended for us. At 58.17 tenure-track FTE. Growth funded, to approximately 534 degrees per year (370 Bachelors degrees). Became the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering.

2018-19: Proviso 5. At 64.83 tenure-track FTE. We received an additional \$3 million per year in the supplemental budget, completing our growth to approximately 620 degrees per year (445 Bachelors degrees). The Bill & Melinda Gates Center for Computer Science & Engineering opened, doubling our space; like the Allen Center, it was largely privately funded.