



April 6th, 2011

To: David Canfield-Budde
University of Washington Graduate School

From: Executive Committee
Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Subject: Response to 10-year Review Committee Report

The Department of Computer Science & Engineering would like to thank the program review committee for its thorough examination of all aspects of our program and activities, and for its ringing endorsement of what we have achieved and hope to achieve in the future:

"The program, one of the very top computer science programs in the world, delivers a high-quality education to undergraduate and graduate students, generates excellent research, and provides important service to the university and broader community. Additionally, the presence of a top notch CSE department makes many other units of the university more competitive. ... Moreover, the department feeds critical ideas and people into the Puget Sound innovation economy. In short, the success of this department is intimately linked with the success of the university and region."

We strongly endorse all three recommendations of the report: (1) Provide continuing status for the maximum 10 years, (2) grow the faculty in order to expand access to their high demand degree programs and high impact research collaborations, and (3) increase the Ph.D. graduates per faculty. We have already applied this third recommendation in the current graduate admissions cycle.

We appreciate the committee's recognition of the fragility of CSE and their understanding of the enormous challenges we face at the moment, both in terms of finances and in keeping our high-quality faculty (e.g., the committee learned of attempts to recruit CSE's best faculty by both industry and academic competitors). Finally, we strongly endorse the ending comment of the report:

"To keep this outstanding program and faculty moving forward, we encourage the UW administration to actively support CSE's ambition to reach the next level of excellence, even in these tough times."