

February 12, 2018

To: Dr. Meg Daly, Chair of ASCC

From: Charles J. Daniels, Chair ASCC Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel

Dear Meg,

On January 18, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Curriculum Committee panel reviewed a proposal from the Department of Mathematics to create a new graduate minor (GM) in Mathematics.

The proposal for the GM program originates from the observation that many doctoral students from outside of the Mathematics department frequently take graduate mathematics courses. Some will earn a Masters, but many use these courses to build a foundation or expand their studies. The GM will fulfill two important goals for these students: first, it will provide a structured program to guide students coming from different areas to courses most relevant to their degree; second, students will receive acknowledgement in their degree for having met the requirements for a focused graduate minor. An advisory structure has been identified to meet the first goal and a number of potential tracks have been proposed for students in physical, biological and social sciences.

The NMS committee voted unanimously to approve the request with two contingencies:

- Corrections to the grade requirement for courses to be counted in the minor from C or better to B or better, as required by the Graduate School.
- Corrections to course numbering and credit inconsistencies.

These were clarified in the revised document.

The committee also asked whether the minor could be applied retroactively to current or past students. The department responded that they would initially limit enrollment to first year graduate students, but didn't preclude the possibility to review this in the future.

We also alerted the department that some graduate programs (the life sciences in particular) strongly encourage their students to complete their coursework and candidacy exams by the end of their sixth semester. Extending the coursework to the third year-as described in the program plans, may be more demanding for some students.

With these issues resolved, we offer our full support for the proposal.

Respectfully,



Charles J. Daniels, Ph.D.