MEMORANDUM

TO: Donald Nieman, Dean
    College of Arts and Sciences

FROM: Michael Y. Ogawa, Chair
      Department of Chemistry

SUBJECT: Unit Response to Program Review Committee Report

The Department of Chemistry has received the Program Review Committee Report and is pleased with its findings and recommendations. The department takes no issue with the recommended action plan and makes the following comments in response to the report:

1. Faculty Resources

   The department looks forward to working with the central administration in developing a hiring plan which will meet the inherent demands of the department’s dual missions of research and teaching.

2. Research Space

   The department will work in collaboration with the central administration to develop a plan for meeting the space needs of the department based on a realistic assessment of need and available solutions.

3. Research Productivity

   The department will articulate its goals for faculty research productivity and external funding in the hiring plan to be developed in item 1.

4. Undergraduate Curriculum

   As stated in the self-study, the department has committed itself to improve the goals, content, and structure of its undergraduate curriculum. Indeed, weekly department meetings have already begun this summer to discuss these important issues. The department hopes to complete its curriculum review and begin implementing changes to the general chemistry sequence well in advance of the recommended target dates.
5. Assessment of Learning Outcomes

The department acknowledges that it has made little progress in developing an assessment plan. However, the assessment of learning outcomes will certainly be an integral component of its upgraded curriculum.

6. Undergraduate Recruiting

The department will continue to pursue strategies for recruiting undergraduate majors. It is hoped that improvements in the curriculum and student advising will aid in this effort.

7. Graduate Recruiting

The department has successfully devoted considerable effort to the recruitment of high quality graduate students to its programs. Indeed, the committee’s recommendation to provide supplements to assistantships for qualified new domestic students has been departmental policy for the past 7 years. Similarly, department policy states that graduate faculty must continually submit external grant applications as an eligibility requirement for mentoring Ph.D. students. This policy emphasizes the importance of faculty having external grant support in maintaining a successful Ph.D. program.

In summary, the department acknowledges the findings and recommendations of the Program Review Committee and looks forward to meeting the challenges presented by its dual missions of research and teaching.