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To: Gerald J Baldasty, Vice Provost and Dean,
The Graduate School

From: Robert Winglee, Prof and Chair

Subject: ESS Response to the Report of the Review Committee for Earth and Space Sciences.

The department wishes to thank the committee members for their hard work and diligence during the review process. We recognize the significant time commitment that the committee effort makes and greatly appreciate their efforts.

The department agrees with all the recommendations outlined within the report. We would like to point out that the need for enhanced TA support is more urgent than noted in the recommendations since only half of the 16 TAs/qtr are supported on permanent funds and that the other half are provided by temporary funds, including leave recapture from sabbaticals. The level of temporary funds is highly volatile and whether we can even sustain TA support at its present level remains highly uncertain.

With respect to Physical plant within the building, the review committee is correct in noting that the renovation of Johnson Hall has addressed significant needs identified in the last 10-year review. However, there is a growing concern on the lack of maintenance of the building plant. This includes remedy flaws in key chemical laboratory facilities and maintenance of the teaching labs.

Outside recruitment of our younger faculty has already begun since the committee submitted their report, so maintaining our faculty continues to be a concern as noted in the report.

We sincerely hope that resources will be provided so that the recommendations of the committee can be implemented and the department can maintain its top 10 national ranking.