



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS

November 6, 2007

The Graduate School
Office of Academic Programs
Box 353770
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

Re: Comments on the Applied Mathematics **Decadal Review**

The Department of Applied Mathematics has found the decadal review to be a useful tool in helping to refocus the efforts of the department towards strategic goals and needs. The review panel found the department to be remarkable in its research productivity, grant support, intellectual climate, and its interdisciplinary impact both at the University of Washington and in the broader mathematical sciences community.

A number of concrete recommendations have been given in the review with the aim of helping further improve an already successful department. The faculty of applied mathematics are considering these recommendations seriously and intend to develop an improved strategic vision to address the most important needs of the department. Two top priorities have been identified: the development of a clear research, graduate training, and teaching mission which is endorsed and supported by the Dean and Provost, and the critical need for investment in faculty positions by the Dean and Provost. These two issues are tied closely together and our faculty will make every effort to work with the University's administration to promote excellence in the department. Given recent and upcoming retirements, faculty positions are exceptionally important and critical for our continued international prominence as a department.

Efforts are already underway to address the remaining recommendations. These recommendations are largely internal departmental issues and can be handled without the aid of the Dean and Provost in most cases.

In summary, we concur with the findings of the panel and look forward to addressing some of the pressing needs of the department with the objective of achieving excellence at all levels of research, education and service to the University for the next decade and beyond. Additionally, we would like to extend our gratitude to Bruce Balick and the review committee for their committed and conscientious efforts in reviewing the department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Nathan Kutz".

J. Nathan Kutz
Professor and Chair of Applied Mathematics