August 3, 2000

To: Marsha Landolt
        Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost, Box 351240

From: Executive Committee
        Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Box 352350

Re: Response to the Computer Science & Engineering Review Committee Report

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, we thank the members of the Review Committee for the time, energy, and insight reflected in their report.

We concur, of course, that "this department, like no other here, lies at the core of nearly every imaginable future of the University of Washington."

We also concur that "merely staying the course would be fatal to the CSE department and to UW ... Moving the CSE program from the top 5-10 to the top 1-5 is an investment that will pay off at a ratio far greater than any input." This is an achievable goal, and a critically important one for the University of Washington.

We strongly support each of the eight bulleted recommendations contained in the Executive Summary, and each of the six numbered recommendations contained in the final section of the report. As an over-arching theme, we draw special attention to the seventh bulleted recommendation: "Consider this a department of the University ... as core to UW's success ... invest in this department in an unprecedented way." There is a philosophical aspect to this recommendation. There is a practical aspect, as well: the University, rather than the College of Engineering, must take responsibility for meeting the space and budgetary needs of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering.
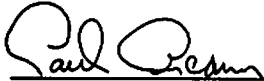
In greater detail:

- We support the recommendation regarding the hiring of an IT Career Counselor as a staff member in CSE, and hope that the Administration will move forward promptly.

- We support the comments regarding the importance of our program to students in Arts & Sciences. In this vein, we request that CSE formally become an *ex officio* department in the College of Arts & Sciences – listed with the other science departments – so that it will be abundantly clear to students, parents, counselors, etc., that Computer Science is alive and well as an option for students in Arts & Sciences.

- We emphasize in the strongest possible terms the importance of addressing our space needs:

  - Interim space is essential. Yet, despite the unequivocal statements contained in the Review Committee report, at a mid-July meeting the Provost showed little inclination to address our interim space needs at the institutional level. And in late July, Arts & Sciences downgraded our computer animation instructional space.

  - We deeply appreciate the personal commitment of the President to securing funding for the CSE Building. We emphasize the Review Committee's mandate to "make the CSE Building the highest priority for Development" – for Central Development, as the flagship project of the new UW campaign. All University presentations regarding fundraising priorities should include prominent mention of the CSE Building!

- Regarding the management of entrepreneurship, we concur with the Review Committee's observation regarding "an administrative response that is so slow and cumbersome that morale ... is compromised."

- While "budgetary insanity" is strong language, we are indeed concerned about the University's ability to back our $1M/year permanent budget shortfall, as well as the enormous bow-wave of startup packages for which we are unable to accumulate reserves because of this shortfall. In addition, faculty salaries and staff salaries face continual pressures requiring a University response.

Again, on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, we thank the members of the Review Committee for their time, energy, and insight.

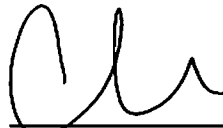Richard Anderson
Professor and Associate Chair

Paul Beame
Professor

Gaetano Borriello
Professor

Anna Karlin
Professor

Ed Lazowska
Bill & Melinda Gates Chair

Alon Levy
Assistant Professor

David Notkin
Boeing Professor and Associate Chair

The Executive Committee of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering