



OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

Dear Colleagues:

Because of the growing importance of information technology, data analytics, computer imaging, cybersecurity and related disciplines in the world today, the growing student demand for these majors, and the ever-increasing importance of these fields to other academic disciplines, many universities across the country are examining ways to improve impact, efficacy and access to these important fields. In some cases, these efforts have involved changing the organizational structure of colleges, schools and departments to create new program alignments and opportunities. In others the emphasis has been on building infrastructure, collaborative spaces and other resources.

I write today to let you know that I have convened and charged a task force to advise me on how best to enhance the status, effectiveness and connectivity of UMD's programs in Computer Science, Data Analytics, Computer Engineering, and related disciplines. The Academic Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) has advised me on this matter and suggested some initial questions for the task force to examine, including:

- What actions and resources would best position UMD to achieve greater national recognition and higher stature in the important fields of computer science, data analytics, computer engineering, information science, and related disciplines? Are there barriers that currently interfere with such achievements and if so, how might we overcome them?
- If organizational structure is judged to be such a barrier, what new organizational arrangements should be considered? Are particular organizational arrangements correlated with high ranking and achievement in these fields among our peers? What would be the costs and benefits of alternative administrative structures?
- If a new administrative structure is envisioned, should current cross-disciplinary units be modified to avoid redundancy?
- Should there be particular physical changes— Programs to be co-located in new building space, etc., either in addition to or instead of administrative changes?
- How would we measure outcomes, i.e., what would be the indications of success or failure?
- How would students benefit from any proposed changes?
- How would connectivity with other fields be affected by any proposed changes?

As the task force begins its work, I'm sure additional questions will arise. I expect that the task force will convene meetings with various stakeholder groups and gather input from across the campus, from external supporters, and from other universities. The membership of the task force is given below. Feel free to contact me or any member of the task force if you wish to provide input privately.

Dr. Alex Triantis, Dean, BMGT (Chair)

Dr. Larry Davis, Distinguished University Professor and Chair, Computer Science, CMNS

Dr. Scott Wolpert, Professor and Chair, Mathematics, CMNS

Dr. Steve Rolston, Professor and Chair, Physics, CMNS

Dr. Joseph JaJa, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, ENGR
Dr. Doug Oard, Professor, College of Information Studies
Dr. Greg Ball, Professor and Dean, BSOS
Dr. Dean Kitchen, Assistant Dean, CMNS
Dr. Katherine Abraham, Professor, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, BSOS
Dr. Dan Falvey, Professor, Chemistry and Bio Chemistry, CMNS
Dr. Bill Idsardi, Professor and Chair, Linguistics, ARHU
Dr. John Bertot, Associate Provost, Faculty Affairs
Dr. Ellen Williams, Distinguished University Professor, Physics, CMNS
Dr. Rama Chellappa, Distinguished University Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering,
ENGR
Dr. Mihai Pop, Professor, Computer Science, CMNS