

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Seattle, Washington 98195

Department of Physics response to the 2019 ten year program review report

March 1, 2019

We thank the program review committee (RC) and its chair, Professor Paul Hopkins, for the considerable effort and diligence that is evident in the program review committee report.

The committee report provides 28 recommendations. The department concurs with all of the recommendations, in particular the initial *Overarching Recommendation*, except where noted below.

We would like to first correct a couple of minor misunderstandings in the report. On page 20, in the discussion of *Challenging the Standard Model*, the committee report includes the ATLAS research program as being under the umbrella of the Center for Experimental Nuclear Physics and Astrophysics (CENPA). The ATLAS program is an independent research program and is not part of CENPA. Similarly, on page 22, in the discussion of *Theoretical Nuclear Physics*, we would like to amend the sentence “In nuclear theory, the INT provides a setting for a broad program ...” to “In nuclear theory, the INT and the local nuclear theory group provide a setting for a broad program ...” The presence of a strong local effort in nuclear theory is an important factor in keeping the INT at UW.

The final recommendation in the *Undergraduate Instructional Program* section “leans against capping the physics degree program ...” This issue arose during the time the RC report was being written. In consultation with the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the physics department filed paperwork to make the physics major a “capacity-constrained” major. It is our intent to continue to admit as many students as possible into the physics majors program, limited only by the resources that are available to us.

In the *PMSP Program* section, the fourth recommendation was to use recent PhD graduates to teach the PMSP courses. It is unfortunate that the RC was unable to meet with more students in this program. The students would attest that an important factor in their decision to select our program is that the courses are taught by tenured research active faculty, similar to our PhD program. The tenured faculty provide both continuity to the PMSP program and research opportunities for its students. We are reluctant to change this model.

Once again, we thank the RC for its time and efforts.

Submitted on behalf of the Department of Physics by its Chair, Blayne Heckel