



August 29, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aloysius Helminck
Dean, College of Natural Sciences

Alison Sherwood
Associate Dean, College of Natural Sciences

FROM: Michael Bruno *Michael Bruno*
Provost

Laura E. Lyons *Laura E. Lyons*
Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

SUBJECT: Response to CNS One-Year Progress Report

Thank you for submitting your one-year progress report to the 2021 program review. Although there are still areas where further work needs to be done, the College is definitely making laudable strides in a variety of areas, and we are pleased to see the positive momentum building toward more impactful leadership and collaboration. The establishment of Bachelor's to Post-Baccalaureate (BAP) pathway programs with the College of Education for the BA in Biology and BA in Math will help address the teaching workforce needs of the state. Additionally, once approved, the Professional Master's in Computer Science and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Computing will support students and working professionals through a leading edge curriculum and industry partnerships. We look forward to learning more about the College's ongoing engagement with the Health and Space Sciences initiatives and the opportunities these collaborations will afford to students and faculty across participating programs.

The issue of climate within the college was identified as a major concern in both the 2014 and 2021 program reviews. Although it has taken some time for the College to address this matter, it is encouraging that the Dean's office has developed the climate survey instrument and will be administering it this fall. As we have discussed before, the results of this assessment will play a critical role in the College's upcoming strategic planning work this academic year. As you noted in your report, the role of the departments in mapping their strategic goals to the College-level plan, and the creation of the Blue Ribbon Faculty Committee will be essential to the creation of a meaningful, actionable strategic plan for the College.

We understand the challenges of managing the impacts of personnel turnover. It is wonderful to see that the Student Academic Success Center has been successful in restoring advising staff capacity to pre-pandemic levels. The nine new faculty approved across the CNS units to start in the AY 24-25 should help with areas that have experienced growth in majors as well as contribute to your overall research profile. The loss of your development officer seems to have

stalled key initiatives in the College. As you know, effective engagement with current students and alumni, as well as the establishment of an external advisory board would provide great benefit to the CNS community, so we are pleased to learn that you will be hiring a new development officer soon. These stakeholder groups could also play an instrumental role in the development and implementation of the strategic plan, so it would be ideal if these efforts could be aligned.

We look forward to learning more about your progress in these areas and the others you have discussed in your three-year progress report due on September 1, 2025.

C: April Nozomi Quinn, Director of Program Development and Review