

4b.11 Alumni and student communication issues and development/fund raising efforts

June 25, 2008

Student communication: The department maintains regular e-mail communication with its majors about course offerings (e.g., the topics for next semester's senior seminars), rules changes (e.g., how students can use REU experiences to be exempted from the Math 490 requirement), summer opportunities (e.g., REU and internship information that the department receives), visits to campus by potential employers, and graduate school issues (e.g., meetings to discuss graduate school application procedures and GRE review sessions).

Alumni communication: At least once per year, the department updates the stories on its web page that are designed to highlight accomplishments of students and faculty. In addition, graduates of the department's COR masters program receive e-mailings at least once per year with COR program news.

Individual fund raising and development: As explained to us, this section of the report is intended to deal with individual donors. The department sometimes receives a few individual donations per year, and the department chair acknowledges each donation with a personal letter within a week of being notified of the gift. Copies of those letters are available in the department office.

External foundation fund raising: Even though nobody asked us about our efforts in external foundation fund-raising for support of our students, improvement of the curriculum, and modernization of the department's physical infrastructure, we want to describe them anyway. We believe that our activity in such grantsmanship should also be considered in this section of the report because it raises large scale funds for for the university in student scholarships, student travel, REU, and curricular improvement, including interdisciplinary components of our curriculum. Here are some examples from recent years.

- One of our faculty members was deeply involved in designing the College's three HHMI grant proposals.
- A department member was co-PI on an NSF-CSEMS grant (\$398,748) that provided scholarship support for mathematics and computer science undergraduate and graduate students over a five year period.
- A faculty member in our department was PI on an NSF equipment grant (\$401,000) that purchased the special computer facilities in the department that were beyond what the College was willing to spend on computing infrastructure here.
- Several department members are co-PIs on the NSF-UBM grant (\$680,000) that provides large-scale support for student travel to conferences and summer REU stipends in mathematical biology.
- Several department members are co-PIs on the NSF-CSUMS grant (\$713,031) that provides extensive scholarship money, summer REU funding, and student travel support for undergraduates interested in computational mathematics issues.
- A department member has received several NSF-CCLI grants (totaling about \$150,000) to improve the curriculum in a general education course and to introduce a chemistry component into our calculus courses.
- Since 1990, the department has held essentially continuous NSF-REU site grants that provide research opportunities for our students (and for students from other universities).