


## Internal Memorandum

**TO:** Department of Mathematical Sciences

**FROM:** Bruce Seely, Dean  


**SUBJECT:** Evaluation and Reappointment of Mark Gockenbach

**DATE:** April 16, 2012

I have received from the department committee all of the materials related to the review and evaluation of Mark Gockenbach, who is being considered for reappointment as department chair. These include the chair's self-evaluation and the survey of the faculty and staff, as well as the ballot.

The report from Mark is clear, as is usual for his reports, about the activities and accomplishments of the unit. It also points to areas of emphasis for the next period of time. Overall, the department does an admirable job of balancing the major responsibility of instruction in foundational courses for nearly every degree program on campus with the development of majors' program and with the institutional priority of strengthening graduate education and research. Much of this task falls upon the chair, and Mark is as good if not better than any other chair in the college at making this balancing act work. Going forward, I appreciate his recognition of opportunities in both the undergraduate and graduate areas. But more important is his stewardship of the department's budget and resources, which includes making sound use of the summer school incentive funds that come to the department because of its strong summer teaching efforts. Much of the department's flexibility in terms of faculty load and travel stems from this budget opportunity.

At the end of the day, the most important question is whether the unit has made progress toward the goals outlined at the time of Mark's last appointment, and it is clear that I am not alone in concluding that the department is actually doing what it has set out to do. The survey reinforces this point directly, along with the overall sense that Mark is a person of integrity, fairness and good sense who treats colleagues with respect. I value his judgment for many of the same reasons. Therefore, given a department ballot of 23-2 in favor of reappointment, I am very pleased to recommend to the Provost that Mark Gockenbach be renewed as chair of Mathematical Sciences for an additional term of three years, beginning in 2013-14. I express my thanks and appreciation to the department committee that coordinated this process.