September 14, 2011

Dear President Córdova:

Greetings from Computer Science!

I request that the University postpone the Computer Science Head search until the Provost's Task Force submits its report and, in the interim, allow Professor Sunil Prabhakar to continue as the Interim Head. Sunil is doing a good job as interim head and hence the department will be in good hands while we delay the process of seeking a Head.

As indicated by Provost Sands in his memo dated 5/13/2011 to the CS faculty and staff, there is an effort underway to set up a Task Force to examine the role of Computing across the campus. With a task force considering a reorganization of computing and given that Computer Science will be central to the new direction, we should wait for the outcome of the task force so we can choose a new head that fits the planned reorganization. I do agree with the recommendations of the departmental External Review Committee in that the department should hire a permanent head. However, given the pending reorganization and the current environment within the department, I and several colleagues strongly believe that in the interests of students, faculty, and the University, it would be best to postpone the process.

Respectfully,

Aditya Mathur

Cc: Keith J. Krach, Chairman Board of Trustees; Provost Tim Sands, Dean Jeffrey Roberts, Morris Levy, Chair University Senate, Interim Head Sunil Prabhakar, Members of the CS Head Search Committee; Officers of CS Graduate Student Board and Undergraduate Student Board;