TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee, and Senators  
FROM: Academic Programs Working Group  
RE: Proposed Computer Science BA  
DATE: February 21, 2017

The APWG met with Professor John Paxton, author of the proposed BA in Computer Science, on November 3, 2016. The report is available and did not recommend approval at that time. The APWG also agreed that the proposal had merit, and made recommendations for strengthening the proposal.

The report was considered by the proposal and the APWG met again with the proposer, John Paxton, but did not feel that the revisions adequately addressed APWG concerns. Members agreed to meet with Professor Paxton individually after that meeting.

On February 1, 2017, the APWG chair (Faculty Senate chair-elect) met with Professor Paxton, following his meetings with other APWG members. Some proposed that departments without a minor could propose a special menu of courses to accompany the CSCI courses (Art, e.g.) and others suggested that the proposal simply propose partnering with academic disciplines that offer B.A. degrees, thus satisfying the main concern of many committee members, namely, that a B.S. in computer science and a B.S. in another discipline offering a B.S. degree did not satisfy the requirements of fulfilling a B.A. degree.

When Professor Paxton met with Professor/Chair-elect Wilmer, Professor Wilmer agreed that a CSCI BS degree coupled with a BA degree in a field offering a BA, would satisfy the concerns of APWG members who believed the original and first revision of the proposal did not satisfy the requirements for offering a BA degree. This would, however, limit the CSCI BA degree to partnering with departments already offering BA degrees, and excluding, for example, degrees offered by the Business College and some Social Sciences.

Professor Wilmer proposed that the BA element could be fulfilled by requiring students to complete at least 2 additional Humanities or Arts core courses beyond the core requirement, with at least one of those courses at the 300 or 400 level, plus completing competency in a foreign language up through the 102 level. This would mean that all students in the CSCI BA major would complete 9 credits in the humanities or arts plus credits of foreign language competency or its equivalent. CPC approved this proposal.