

June 18, 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: Center for the Study of Complex Systems, College of Literature,
Science, and the Arts

ACTION REQUESTED: Authorize the Center for the Study of Complex Systems to be a Tenure
Home

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2009

The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts requests approval to allow the Center for the Study of Complex Systems to recommend faculty for tenured appointments and to serve as a tenure home.

In 1995 the University of Michigan created the Program for the Study of Complex Systems (PSCS) reporting to OVPR. In 1997 the Horace H. Rackham School for Graduate Studies approved a complex adaptive systems certificate program administered by PSCS. An external review of PSCS in 1997 recommended that funding for its continuing operations be established and that it be renewed as a center, which was established in 1999 by then Provost Nancy Cantor. In the summer of 2005, then Provost Paul Courant, in consultation with CSCS, recommended that the Center's reporting line be moved from OVPR to the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), which was approved by the LSA Executive Committee in May 2006.

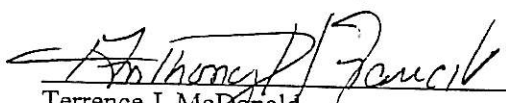
CSCS currently functions as a broadly interdisciplinary program designed to encourage and facilitate research and education in the general area of nonlinear, dynamical, and adaptive systems. CSCS is based on the recognition that many different kinds of systems that include self-regulation, feedback, or adaptation in their dynamics may have a common underlying structure despite their apparent differences. The interdisciplinary approaches help elucidate the general structure and behavior of complex systems.


CSCS was established as a "funding only" unit and was given a budget for teaching by faculty with appointments in other schools and colleges. Participating faculty represent nearly every school or college of the University. CSCS has been extremely successful offering at least six graduate-level courses each year as well as the Graduate Certificate in Complex Adaptive Systems. Both graduate and undergraduate students may take CSCS courses if they meet the requirements. Courses are in great demand and routinely have long waitlists.

We respectfully request that the Regents approve the Center for the Study of Complex Systems as a unit that can appoint tenured faculty and serve as a tenure home, effective June 1, 2009.

RECOMMENDED BY:

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:


Terrence J. McDonald,
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts


Teresa A. Sullivan, Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

June 2009