

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

**SUBJECT:** Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Authorization to Allow the Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science to Appoint Faculty

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 1, 2019

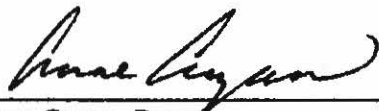
The Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science was created in 2014 with a generous gift from Marshall Weinberg (Philosophy, '50) that established an endowment of about \$8M. In the past year, the Weinberg Institute has attracted additional development funds, including a one-time gift of \$75K from the original donor to support the Weinberg Graduate Fellowships and a new undergraduate summer internship program. The Cognitive Science undergraduate major was launched in 2014 and was the culmination of several years of effort by faculty in the Departments of Linguistics, Philosophy, and Psychology, resulting in a new and intellectually vibrant, interdisciplinary cohort of students on campus, who add to and complement existing academic strengths of the College.

The purpose of this request is to change the status of the Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science to an instructional unit allowing the director of the institute to negotiate with departments for partial teaching and service efforts from existing faculty, and partner with departments in future cross-disciplinary growth. This will strengthen ties to existing departments and ensure that the teaching and service effort of core faculty are institutionally supported and recognized.

The Cognitive Science undergraduate major has grown rapidly since it was established. There are now 205 declared majors, making it one of the twenty largest LSA majors. The future health of the major, however, requires a degree of curricular autonomy that the current structure of zero faculty effort does not permit. Appointing instructional effort in the institute appropriately recognizes the size of the major, and affords the autonomy to grow and improve the intellectual coherence and foundations of the four tracks.

The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts will provide the equivalent of two full-time faculty lines to cover the eight quarter-time positions that the Weinberg Institute requires. These will be joint appointments with the faculty members' home units. This change will enable the program to establish control over a stable core curriculum. We respectfully request approval to offer joint appointments in the Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science.

Recommended by:



Anne Curzan, Dean  
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor  
of English Language and Literature, Linguistics,  
and Education  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Recommendation endorsed by:



Amy K. Dittmar  
Acting Provost and Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

December 2019