Statement to the Faculty Senate on the status of the Department of Computer Science:

On the floor of the Senate meeting at its last meeting, it was alleged that all is well between the Computer Science Department and the College of Engineering, despite the separation of Computer Science from the College. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The College, through its Deans and the chairs of its departments, has vigorously and repeatedly protested the separation to the President and the Provost. We have explained that the temporary organizational structure imposed by then-Provost Randel harms Engineering and is simply unacceptable to its faculty. We have made our concerns clear to the Dean of Computing and Information Science and to the Chair of Computer Science in a series of meetings. They can have no doubt of our position.

The harm done to Engineering by removing CS while requiring Engineering to continue to admit and provide services for CS majors has a number of forms. The most elementary is this: the college has no say in the hiring and promotion of the CS faculty who will be teaching Engineering majors and responsible for shaping the curriculum delivered to them. It therefore has no control over the qualifications of CS faculty to teach engineering students.

We value our colleagues in CS, and we have supported the creation of the Faculty on Computing and Information. It is important for everyone to clearly understand that the Department of Computer Science and the FCI are two distinct entities. All departments in the University report to the Dean of a College. This is the fundamental organizational structure of this University. The Garza Report recognizes this, and specifies that the FCI will recommend the placement of CS in an existing College. It states

> "The initial charge to the FCIS will be the development of a five year academic plan for the university-wide enhancement of teaching, research, and outreach related to computing and information sciences and of the quality and breadth of faculty appointments in support of its recommendations.
>
> The Computer Science Department will be located in one or more of the existing colleges based on the recommendations of the 5 year academic plan."

The Computer Science Department is not mentioned in the Garza report except for the one sentence above and of the following subsequent statement.

> "Existing undergraduate computer science majors will be maintained in the College of Arts and Sciences and Engineering. Admissions for undergraduates will proceed exactly as they do now through those colleges. Student services will continue to be provided as they presently are."

In particular, the Garza report lists the duties of the Dean of CIS, and those duties do not include authority over CS.

We firmly believe the Garza report represents a contract and should be implemented without further delay. We believe CS should be located in an existing College, and prefer that to be Engineering.

Signed by Chairs of the College of Engineering   April 9, 2002
  John Abel, CEE;Joel Brock, A&EP; Tim Healey, T&AM; Bryan Isacks, GS; Sidney Leibovich, M&AE; Chris Ober, MSE; Clif Pollock, ECE; Sidney Resnick, OR&IE; Michael Shuler, ChE; and Mike Walter, BEE