



**Michigan
Technological
University**

Department of Applied Computing
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, Michigan 49931-1295

July 12, 2024

To: Andrew Storer, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

From: Daniel R. Fuhrmann, Dave House Professor of Computing
Chair, Department of Applied Computing

Re: House Professorship Report for FY24

Cc: Dennis Livesay, Dave House Dean of Computing

The activity and expenses for the Dave House Professorship in Computing, which I hold, continued to be used to support the growth and teaching activity in the Department of Applied Computing in FY24. With the exception of less than \$100 in miscellaneous expenses, all of the funds were used for salary for temporary/adjunct faculty or overload compensation for regular Applied Computing faculty.

We began the year with a carryforward of \$903.72. Following the annual transfer of \$40,000 from the Michigan Tech Fund, \$39,136.26 was spent on salaries as described above. This leaves a carryforward balance of \$1767.46.

The amount of funds spent in FY24 is about half of what was spent in FY23, due to the sizable carryforward balance at the beginning of FY23. In my report from last year, I described the need for a plan to shift the responsibility for these additional instructional costs from the professorship to the College of Computing and your office, at least partially. I am pleased to report that this plan was implemented, with about \$65k in lapsed salary funds from the College of Computing going toward this purpose. In the upcoming fiscal year, it is my understanding from Dean Livesay that approximately \$70k has been committed from your office for additional instructional costs. This will be added to funds being made available from the professorship, as well as funds freed up from a reallocation of my salary to an externally-funded research grant. In total we are looking at \$100k-120k in additional instructional costs in the Department of Applied Computing.

All of this need for instructional costs is a result of the growth of the College of Computing and the Department of Applied Computing since its inception in 2019. In last year's report, which was issued in September 2023, I provided numbers for this growth; since this report is being issued in mid-July I do not have new growth numbers although I should in about 2-3 months. To summarize last year's figures, we have seen a 170% increase in majors and a 130% increase in student credit hours, along with substantial growth in external research expenditures to \$1.3M in

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FY23. Based on preliminary enrollment numbers I anticipate that we will continue on our strong growth trajectory, and am willing to make that more concrete in a few months' time with a follow-up report.

I am pleased with the growth of the Department of Applied Computing (and its predecessor unit, the "CMH Division") over the past five years. In the coming years the focus will be more on the evolution of the department rather than growth. The College of Computing is weighing the possibility of creating a Department of Data Science, which will have a major impact on Applied Computing. The organization surrounding our programs in Cybersecurity, Information Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, and Mechatronics may also change in the near to medium term. In order to help oversee and manage these possible transitions, I expressed my desire to remain as department chair of another three years. I am very pleased, and gratified, that this reappointment was approved by the department faculty, Dean Livesay, and you. I look forward to our shared future with hope and optimism.