



Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors

Dear MSPS Members,

Over the last year St. Cloud State University's Land Surveying and Mapping Sciences (LSMS) program has become quite a topic of conversation in the Land Surveying Community. Misinterpreted communications to SCSU's upper administration and SCSU's implemented budget cuts have triggered a review the LSMS program. Because of this review, SCSU is beginning to restructure the LSMS program. At this point we are not aware of what the outcome of this restructuring will involve, but it will likely result in some significant changes to the LSMS program. The worst case would be that SCSU makes the decision to terminate the LSMS program. I would not take that option lightly either. Enrollment in the program has been on the lower side for the last few years and it needs to improve to insure the life of the program. On the other hand, investing into the program and restructuring it could lead to a stronger program with more students. This restructuring could allow students to achieve a true 4-year BS degree in Land Surveying in a more efficient manor than what the current program offers. I can tell you with assurance is that Professor Eric Fuller is diligently working to create a better program for the future. It is important to understand that Professor Fuller will have to propose his planned program improvements to upper administration and they will have to buy into his proposal for any positive changes to take place. He cannot do this without our support. There has been a lingering uncertainty between the land surveying community and SCSU's upper administration regarding the importance of SCSU's LSMS program, due to what I would label as misguided communications. For Professor Fuller to successfully sell any proposed improvements to the program, SCSU's upper administration will need to understand the real value of having a university here in Minnesota that offers a BS degree in land surveying and mapping sciences.

Recent meetings at SCSU leads me to believe that Interim President Vaidya and Interim Provost Gregory do not truly recognize the importance of SCSU's LSMS program to society. This of course is far from the truth. The importance of SCSU's LSMS program and the importance of licensed land surveyors to society must to be conveyed to SCSU's upper administration. This message will most effectively be conveyed in letters to the Dean Banaian, Dean of the School of Public Affairs, and to Interim Provost Gregory. These letters need to be prepared by a large volume of people working in the land surveying profession and working in the many disciplines that land surveyors interact with.

The timing of these letters is critical as the Geography Department and upper administration are currently reviewing the LSMS program and Professor Fuller's draft proposed improvements to it.

We kindly request that you take the time to prepare a letter emphasizing the importance of the land surveying profession and the importance of SCSU's LSMS program at your earliest convenience. To help you get started I have attached a template letter containing some content ideas that you can use to help you get started. I have also attached a list of suggested sub-topics to help you get started writing a letter regarding the importance of SCSU's LSMS program with a more personal touch to it.

Remember, it is not the length of the letter but the actual action of sending of a letter that will have the most impact. The volume of letters mailed is extremely important so please take the time to get involved and prepare a letter. I ask that you also request anybody working in a profession that is impacted by Land Surveying to also submit a letter.

Please address and mail your letters to both:

Dr. Daniel D. Gregory

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
209 Administrative Services
St. Cloud State University
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301-4498

King Banaian

Dean of the School of Public Affairs
365 Stewart Hall
St. Cloud State University
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301-4498

On behalf of the MSPS Education Committee members, I thank you for taking the time to support SCSU's Land Surveying and Mapping Sciences program and the Land Surveying profession.

Sincerely,

Samuel DeLeo, Chairman
MSPS Education Committee