Date: January 29, 2015
To: CoSM Curriculum Committee
From: Kathrin Engisch, Associate Dean, CoSM
Re: CoSM Direct Admit Criteria for 2015-16 Academic Year

The College of Science and Mathematics requests approval from the CoSM Curriculum Committee to change the criteria for direct admission to CoSM departments to the following values for Fall 2015:

High School GPA ≥ 3.00
AND Complete College Prep requirements in high school
AND ACT Math score 22 or higher or SAT Math score 520 or higher
AND ACT English score 23 or higher or SAT English score 530 or higher

The Current CcSM criteria for direct admission are:

High School GPA > 3.25
Complete College Prep requirements in high school
ACT Math score 25 or higher
SAT Math score 620 or higher

The reasons for the changes are:

1) Our college and our departments are held accountable for retention of all of our students, not only direct admit students but also university college intending students

2) Although one solution to this reality is to direct admit all intending students to CoSM, we would like to direct admit those students who have a reasonable chance of success in the college, to avoid large numbers of students needing to move from our college to other colleges

3) Students with the new criteria described above are already eligible to take our entry level science courses for majors, college algebra, and college English
4) Using these criteria for direct admits would increase the population by ~50 students for the college, ~20 each for biological sciences and psychology. This is unlikely to put an undue burden on our college and departmental advising, and represents an approximately 50% increase in Direct Admits (from 100 to 150 students in the college, from 40 to 60 in BIO or PSY, anticipated).

5) We believe that this will increase the retention of the students that previously would have been in university college, as they have the opportunity to make connections with the faculty and advisors in their department earlier.

6) Rather than have no GPA requirement, we based the GPA requirement on data that show that in a key entry level science course, students who get a D or F are highly likely to have had a H.S. GPA < 3.0 (53%). Only 1/44 students (2.3%) who got an A, B or C had a H.S. GPA < 3.0.