

Date: Saturday, January 31, 2026
To: Dr. Nilgün Önder, Associate Vice-President (Academic)
Re: Department of Physics Self-Study, Academic Unit Review

Dear Dr. Önder,

The Self-Study material for the upcoming Academic Unit Review of the Physics Department is attached. The submission consists of this cover letter, the Self Study, an Appendix, and the compilation of CVs.

The following steps were taken to produce the Self Study.

- A Steering Committee for the Academic Unit Review process was formed in October 2025 by seeking nominations, including self-nominations, from the Department. Based on the input received, the Committee membership consists of: G. Grinyer (Chair), A. Teymurazyan, G. Vujanovic, and resource members G. Huber and Z. Papandreou.
- The Committee, in consultations with the Department, met periodically from October 2025 through January 2026.
- The first draft of the Self Study was released to the Department on December 11, 2025.
- A Departmental meeting was held on December 12, 2025, to discuss the first draft of the Self-Study. After some discussion, the Department coarsely endorsed the Self Study.
- Department members were invited for a second round of comments by January 9, 2026.
- Based on the feedback received, the second draft of the Self-Study was released to the Department on January 19, 2026, with a due date for final comments of January 23, 2026. No additional comments were offered by members outside the Committee in this period.
- The Committee finalized the document on January 26, 2026, and the Department Head did a final check on January 31, 2026.

Sincerely,



Dr. Zisis Papandreou
Professor of Physics