Although the Chemistry Program has been recommended for continuation by the Expedited Program Review Committee, a restructuring of the program has been mandated by the Board of Visitors and includes the dissolution of the current Chemistry and Physics Department and merger of the Chemistry program with the Biology Department.

In 1995, the Vice President of Academic Affairs recommended the merger of the Chemistry and Physical Science Departments to form the Department of Chemistry and Physics. After many weeks of faculty input and debate, all parties involved decided that this combination of programs would better serve our students. Only after a faculty vote in each Department did this merger move forward.

Contrast this with the current merger of the Biology and Chemistry Departments where not one meeting between Department Chairs or faculty ever occurred to discuss the negative impact such a move would have on each program. While the Chemistry Department fully supports interdisciplinary work and strong collaborative teaching and research efforts between programs, it is unanimous in its support for the continuation of independent science programs in Physics, Geology, Chemistry and Biology. Of particular note is the importance our program places on the continuation of the Physics program which provides the foundation our students need for success in Chemistry.