

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT SPRINGFIELD

Computer Science Program  
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January 12, 2015

National Security Agency  
Attn: NSA/DHS CAE Program Manager  
9800 Savage Road, Suite 6744  
Fort Meade, MD 20755-6744

To Whom It May Concern:

I serve as the Department Head of the Computer Science Department and Director of the UIS Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance (CAE). My administrative responsibilities include providing leadership and vision for the CAE. Since we received our initial designation as a CAE in 2009, under my leadership we have continued to develop and grow our center. The annual Cyber Security Disaster Recovery has grown to over 350 attendees. In addition, we have partnered with the Center for Systems Security and Information Assurance (CSSIA), InfraGard and State Farm Insurance to host a regional Digital Forensic Event/Competition for college students. In the area of curriculum expansion, I have provided the leadership to expand our partnerships with community colleges to develop a model for two-plus-two degree partnerships between community colleges and four-year schools. I have coordinated with the Learning First Project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in designing a plan to make higher education more accessible and affordable to low-income young adults. Through this effort, students that participate in the project will be provided the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in Information Systems Security at UIS. I have worked with faculty from Historically Black Colleges and Universities through the Association of Computer and Information Science/Engineering Departments at Minority Institutions (ADMI) on developing and offering curriculum and courses on Systems Security and Information assurance at HBCU's. In addition to this work, I also contributed to the development of the minority outreach tool kit developed by Ed Leach at CSSIA. I have also worked with the Central Illinois Regional Center of Excellence for Secure Software (CIRCESS) to develop a curriculum model for the initiative. Prior to the fall 2014, we offered a bachelor's degree in computer science that provided the students the choice of emphasizing Information Systems Security or Software Engineering in the bachelor's degree in computer science at UIS. During the 2013 – 2014 academic year, we developed and submitted proposal to offer a bachelor's degree in Information Systems Security. The proposed degree was approved through academic governance, the U of I Board of Trustees and the Illinois Board of Higher Education. In the fall 2014, we began offering the bachelor's degree in Information Systems Security.

Since the fall 2009, our department has seen unprecedeted growth from 333 undergraduate and 225 master's (558) majors to 505 undergraduates and 700 master's (1,205) majors in the fall

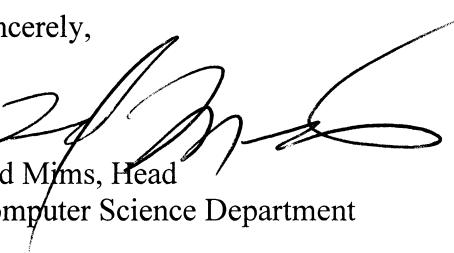


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2014. Due to this growth, in May 2013 the University of Illinois Board of Trustees approved the change in administrative leadership from department chair to department head. The Department of Computer Science has demonstrated a strong capacity for productive planning and resource management, as well as ongoing interest in establishing beneficial professional partnerships with external units and in undertaking significant initiatives for program development and growth. The specified change in governance structure provided the Department with strong and stable structural leadership, which is appropriate for and beneficial to the advancement of a department of its size and complexity. Under this new administrative structure, as Department Head I am not required to teach classes. Therefore, I have additional time to dedicate to the administration of the Department and the CAE.

Sincerely,



Ted Mims, Head  
Computer Science Department