MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 2006

TO: Sandra Beeler, Program Coordinator
    Office of Curriculum and Registration

FROM: Ed Donnerstein, Dean
       College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

RE: Proposed Graduate Certificate

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) is strongly supportive of the proposal to create the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Digital Information Management. The proposed program is a cooperative venture of the School of Information Resources and Library Sciences (SIRLS), housed within SBS, and the University of Arizona’s Office of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach (CEAO).

If approved, this Program would provide critically-needed opportunities for continuing professional development in the management of digital information—a rapidly-expanding area of specialization that typically was unavailable at the time most current professionals were completing their initial degree programs.

Beyond the obvious benefit to the relevant professional community likely to enroll in this program, one of the attractive features of this proposal is it’s lack of new resource needs. In its initial implementation, the program would function smoothly using existing SIRLS faculty and staff. As enrollment in the program grows, any additional faculty and staff needs would be paid for out of program revenues, and not out of University or College resources. It is recognized that as the department grows along with any planned growth in the degree programs offered by SIRLS, there may be additional space needs for new faculty offices. Under such circumstances, the College is committed to working with SIRLS in an effort to locate appropriate space.

We believe the proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Digital Information Management will be of great benefit to students interested in obtaining some degree of formal training in this important area, as well as to the University, its colleges, and to the broader community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

c: Jana Bradley