MGM MIRAGE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

April 12, 2010

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Dr. Neal Smatresk
Office of the President
Box 451001
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1001

Dear Dr. Smatresk:

As an active advisory board member for the School of Informatics I can't tell you how disappointed I am to see this progressive community supported program on the list being considered for elimination.

The School for Informatics was created by a direct request from Information Technology executives in Las Vegas. These same leaders played a major role in the development of the curriculum, which has been well received based on enrollment data for the program year after year.

The funding for the program is mostly covered through external grants and contracts. There is already substantial funding in awards for the year 2011. There is zero state funds allocated for administration costs and support.

The faculty for the School of Informatics has received a Presidents Research Award and Research Infrastructure Award in the last three years. They are also published writers in leading journals and conference proceedings in their field.

The School of Informatics is the only National Security Agency Center of Academic Excellence in the state. This status provides an array of scholarship opportunities to Informatics majors.

I have supported and will continue to support the school with internships to give the students some real-world experience in the local business environment. I have also agreed to participate with the classes in a guest speaker role to inform and answer questions about my experiences over the years.

This program has such momentum I believe it would be a disservice to the community, students, UNLV and the IT leaders who helped develop it to keep it on the elimination list. -- Please remove the School of Informatics from the elimination list.

Sincerely,

Tim Frawley
VP & Chief Technology Officer
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