



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

April 10, 2010

Re: Review of Informatics Department for elimination/consolidation

Dear Dr. Smatresk,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the continued existence and *expansion* of the UNLV Informatics department. Over the past three years I have contributed significant time and effort to supporting the department because I feel that it produces the type of IT Professionals that will soon be the IT leaders of our community.

Unlike other IT Programs – the Informatics Department produces graduates who are skilled at envisioning and designing a holistic approach to Information Technology – as opposed to a more limited view from the engineering or management side. Through the unique offering of courses in Business Analysis, Project Management, Software Design, Internships and cognate studies – the Informatics Department is producing future thought leaders who are able to be productive to local organizations immediately upon graduation.

Dr. Berghel has built an incredibly powerful Advisory Board of well respected and forward thinking Chief Information Officers who each share ownership in the success of the unique design of the Informatics curriculum. To abandon this program now would be to refute their efforts over the past years in helping UNLV to refine their programs to produce the types of graduates that they desperately need and want.

I also work closely with the Informatics students in coordinating internship programs. From personal experience – I can state with certainty that the students produced by the Informatics Department are in great demand in our local IT community. Currently there are more requests for students to work in local Internship positions than there are students available.

I ask that you consider the detriment to our local IT community in losing this program as you evaluate whether the current Informatics Department is viable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Fiala'.

Peter Fiala, PMP - CEO
Fiala Project Resources - *The Project Management and Project Staffing Experts in Nevada.*