

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Davis College of
Business and Economics

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Professor and Dean
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February 14, 2023

To,
Dr. Kurt Gingrich,
President – Faculty Senate

Dear Dr. Gingrich:

On November 30, 2022, three faculty from the School of Computing & Information Sciences in the Artis College of Science and Technology, who are associated with the BS in Information Science and Systems (ISAS) program and its concentrations, sent Provost denBoer a memo, copied to Dean Bacharach and myself, requesting that this program and its associated concentrations along with the 3 faculty move over to the Davis College. The three ISAS faculty involved are Drs. Arthur Carter, Hui Wang and Caleb Bradberry. Subsequently, through discussions with Provost denBoer, Dean Bacharach and the 3 ISAS faculty, it was agreed upon by all parties that that this move would be in the best long-term interests of the University and the ISAS program. We (Dean Bacharach and myself) received Provost denBoer's permission on December 13, 2022 to explore the idea with the faculty in our respective Colleges. In a subsequent meeting on January 9, 2023, Dean Bachrach and I decided to inform our respective Colleges about this on Friday, Jan 13.

Since then, Dean Bachrach has met with his Leadership Team in the Artis College as well as the School of Computing and Information Sciences and there is no opposition to this proposed move from within the Artis College.

As my Davis College colleagues know already, I support the move since I see significant potential for growth in the ISAS program. Employment in ISAS-affiliated occupations are projected to grow by 12 percent from 2018 to 2028, adding about 546,200 new jobs, according to the [US Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook \(OOH\)](#). In a reflection of the same, enrolments in ISAS-affiliated program in business schools (programs such as Management/Business Information Systems or Business Analytics/Business Intelligence etc.) have been strong over at least the past decade and it is my belief that with appropriate programmatic adaptations, we can realize the same strong enrollment growth here at Radford University.

As for consultation within the Davis College, between Jan 13 and Feb 3, I have held 4 separate meetings within our College including with twice with our entire faculty body (Jan 20 and Feb 3), twice with our Leadership Team (Jan 13 & 27) and a special meeting with the faculty in the Department of Accounting, Finance & Business Law and the Department of Economics (Jan 17). Additional meetings have been held by faculty in smaller groups, including those within specific departments. At all the meetings with faculty, I gave my colleagues the history of the ISAS program that used to reside in the Davis College until 2000, the rationale for the request by the 3 ISAS faculty to move themselves and the ISAS program and associated concentrations to Davis College, the pros and cons from our perspective of agreeing to the move and finally, several options for absorbing the incoming faculty in the program to the Davis College within our existing

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departmental structure of 4 departments. Finally, after all these meetings and discussions, all Davis College faculty had an opportunity to give their input on this proposed move and the options presented via an anonymous survey conducted between Jan 20 -27.

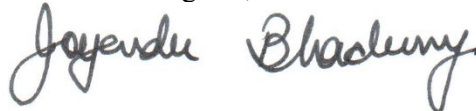
Subsequently after all these discussions, at our Feb 3 meeting, Davis College faculty voted by a margin of 30 (in favor) to 3 (opposed) supporting the move of the 3 ISAS faculty to our existing Department of Accounting, Finance and Business Law (AFBL). As such, the ISAS program and its associated concentrations will now become a new and third offering by this existing department (AFBL), which hitherto offered programs in Accounting and Finance – with the ISAS faculty continuing to have the same oversight over the program curriculum as they have had before. I subsequently discussed that with Dr. Art Carter and requested him to consult the other two ISAS colleagues and he has assured me that they have no objections to this move.

On Feb 10, the AFBL and the 3 ISAS faculty held their first ever joint meeting and decided that they would like their department to be renamed as *Department of Finance, Accounting, Business Law, and Information Systems* whose four letter code would be **FABS**.

Per the approval pathways at RU, the next step is a review and recommendation pertaining to this proposal from the Davis College and Artis College by the Faculty Senate. With this memo, I am requesting the same. In parallel, I will also be working with the Provost's Office to ensure that all our obligations towards SCHEV with regards to this proposed move are also taken care of.

I trust the above will suffice. However, if any additional information or document is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,



(Dr. J. Bhadury)

cc: M. denBoer, T. Channell, S. Bachrach, A. Carter, A. Stanton, D. Brinckman, S. Dendir, W. Stanton, J. Kopf