



November 20, 2009

Cathy H. Wu
Edward G. Jefferson Professor of Bioinformatics & Computational Biology
Department of Computer & Information Sciences
Delaware Biotechnology Institute
University of Delaware

Dear Professor Wu,

The College of Arts & Sciences is pleased to support your applications for three new graduate programs, the Master's of Science in Bioinformatics & Computational Biology, the Professional Science Master's in Bioinformatics, and the Graduate Certificate in Bioinformatics, each with two concentrations, in Computational Sciences Concentration and Life Sciences Concentration. Given the current courses that will be taken by students in this program, and our plans to hire additional faculty in the areas of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, we can provide the instructional capacity needed for this program. We have reviewed the business plan for the PSM program and believe that this can be a sustainable program, even with modest enrollments. The other programs do not require additional fixed costs beyond what we are investing in current programs, so that they should also be sustainable even if they generate no new revenue.

Programs such as these will provide important new educational options for students, serve local companies by offering training opportunities for their employees, make the region more attractive to prospective employers and residents, and enhance the prominence of the University. We strongly support this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Watson".

George H. Watson
Interim Dean