


MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate Leadership

FROM: Daniel J. Bernardo, Provost and Executive Vice President 

SUBJECT: Proposed Formation of a new School of Information

DATE: July 1, 2019

Please find attached a notice of intent (NOI) to create a new School of Information (iSchool) within the College of Arts of Sciences (CAS). The notice of intent fulfills all of the requirements stipulated in the 2014 memorandum of understanding (MOU) documenting the process for creation, movement, renaming, or elimination of departments and colleges.

The NOI was developed in response to a planning process initiated in the College of Arts and Sciences last academic year. CAS formed an *ad hoc* interdisciplinary committee to explore the opportunities for building stronger ties between the Data Analytics program, the Digital Technology and Culture program (DTC), quantitative social and natural sciences, and design-oriented faculty in the Fine Arts. The committee was charged to explore existing synergies between these areas and to consider how we might best address the very real need for multi-dimensional, data-oriented, creative thinkers in the marketplace.

The broad areas of information science and data analytics are exploding across numerous areas within our economy. Opportunities exist well beyond rigorous quantitative analysis and extend into areas such as visualization, qualitative research, and text analytics. Fortunately, with Dean Jockers, we have someone who is at the leading edge of these developments, both in the academic arena and industry. The iSchool can provide an organizational structure that will foster these interdisciplinary collaborations which will allow our students and faculty to be more competitive in this everchanging environment.

As Provost, I support the attached notice of intent. The proposal is supported by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as a number of the faculty involved in the programs and disciplines which would likely fall within the new School.

I look forward to receiving the Faculty Senate's input on these proposed actions. Thank you for your assistance.

Cc: Mitzi M. Montoya, Incoming Provost and Executive Vice Provost
Craig Parks, Associate Vice Provost