

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: New Undergraduate degree program in the School of Information

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to offer a Bachelor of Arts or Science in Information degree,
School of Information

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 21, 2012

The School of Information (SI) proposes a new undergraduate degree program leading to a Bachelor of Arts or Science in Information (BA/BS in Information). The BA/BS in Information will be a rich multidisciplinary program that builds equally on social/behavioral and technological sciences. It will prepare students to understand and transform interactions among people, information and technology. The most successful universities of the 21st century will be leaders in research and education in the role of information in all human endeavors. The radical transformation of our world by personal computing, the Internet, and intelligent mobile devices is clear. Something of deeper intellectual significance has happened in tandem with the technical and commercial developments. Information has crystallized as a genuine academic field of study that provides a coherent perspective on what makes information valuable, memorable, and powerful in our lives and our societies.

This degree will build on our school's great strength in interdisciplinary activities, and our initial exploratory efforts in providing information education for undergraduates. The program will teach students a variety of social and technical levers for changing information flows: how to elicit information that would not otherwise be gathered; how to make it accessible when it would not otherwise be (and vice-versa); how to aggregate and present it in ways that make it meaningful and actionable. It will also teach students how to analyze information flows (who knows what and when) and their implications for power, money, health, and happiness. And they will have the skills to discover, analyze and apply knowledge through global networks of sensors and humans (expert and not).

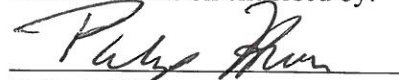
The proposed program and its related courses have been carefully reviewed and were approved by the SI faculty in February 2012. We request that the Regents approve the new undergraduate degree program, "BA or BS in Information." Pending approval, students would be permitted to declare this major in the fall of 2014. The program will be implemented upon approval from the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan, pending the Board of Regents approval.

Recommended by:



Jeffrey MacKie-Mason
Arthur W. Burks Collegiate Professor of
Information and Computer Science, and
Dean, School of Information

Recommendation endorsed by:



Philip J. Hanlon
Provost and Executive Vice President
Academic Affairs

May 2012