The new Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Security in the Computer Science Department will allow UIS to be competitive and increase student enrollments in an emerging market. The department (pt. 1, pg. 6) gives compelling data to the need and potential student demand in the market place. The number of individuals needed in Information Security will only grow and at present the number of graduates being produced nationwide is not keeping pace. Although there are other programs in the state, they enroll only 324 students, not enough for the demand. In addition, the new program will be offered both on-ground and online and will be different from the other programs in the state by stressing practical security and not administrative training (pt. 2 p. 1) in a “Quality degree creation” program to meet economic demand. The new program will utilize current courses but the core courses in the new program will only share one core course in the current program. The core and elective courses in the new major will be focused on security courses, separate from the current degree (pt. 1, pg. 2). The program believes that the proportion of full time and part time students will mirror their current program. In addition the program intends to start with a cohort of 12 students (9 FTE) and build up to 51 (39 FTE) by year 5. This is a realistic projection based upon the current data and staffing. The programs admission requirements are consistent with UIS and their program requirements are logical and sequence based (pt. 3). The program has an assessment plan that is well thought out, doable and consistent with CASL’s requirements and philosophy (pt. 4).

The proposal (pt. 4, pg. 4) indicates that the program will be enrollment driven and at present “the current faculty will be adequate to provide instruction for the course to be offered and the current staff is adequate to support the program administration.” The proposal indicates that if the program is successful that they may need one additional faculty after several years of offering the program, supported by enrollment (pt. 4, pg. 5). The program will not need additional library resources or facilities. Given the lack of resources in the immediate future this program will not negatively impact the financial situation of the College or University but in fact will have a positive impact by enrolling more students.

The program proposal is well written, logically thought out, and presents a compelling case for the University of Illinois Springfield to approve the new program. I strongly endorse the proposal and urge its approval.