

Professor Peter Dawkins
Dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce

6 May 2003

Dear Peter,

Chair of Business Information Systems

Since the appointment of Professor Stewart Leech in Accounting and Business Information Systems in July 2000 the number of staff in the Business Information Systems area within the department has grown from 2 fte to 9 fte with an additional 2/3 fte staff expected to be recruited this year. The total efts in the Business Information Systems area has grown to 520 efts. Further strong growth is expected as the Master of Business and Information Technology and other masters coursework programs in the Faculty develop.

The research profile of the Business Information Systems group is growing with a team from the group winning a large ARC grant this year. The number of PhD students in this area is also growing rapidly with 6 students currently enrolled. The group has developed research strengths in decision technologies and enterprise systems.

To help further the development of Business Information Systems in the Department and Faculty building on their research strengths and to provide additional academic leadership in this rapidly growing area the Department's executive has supported the creation of a new Chair in Business Information Systems in the Department of Accounting and Business Information Systems. In terms of scholarly research and service to the community, a Chair of Business Information Systems would lift the profile of our Department and Faculty. We have an opportunity with this new appointment to further build on our emerging strengths and to develop our reputation as a leader in Business Information Systems in Australia.

Would you please forward to the Planning and Budgets Committee with your endorsement this request to establish a new Chair in Business Information Systems.

Yours truly,

Professor Garry Marchant
Head, Department of Accounting and Business Information Systems