



Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Dean
College of Business & Industry
P.O. Box 5288
Mississippi State, MS 39762-5288
cobi-dean@cobilan.msstate.edu

November 17, 2006

Dr. Rayford B. Vaughn
Billie J. Ball Professor of Computer Science and Engineering
Director, Center for Computer Security Research
P.O. Box 9637
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dear Professor Vaughn:

This letter is in reference to the Center of Academic Excellence renewal application being submitted to the National Security Agency by Mississippi State University (MSU). The College of Business actively participates in the MSU Center for Computer Security Research (CCSR) and has done so since 2001. There are two faculty members in the College of Business that can be considered a substantial part of CCSR in that they either teach security related courses each semester, actively advise security MS or Ph.D. students in their work through a formal course offering that permits the student to work on masters research or Ph.D. research, or conduct research in the Information Assurance (IA) and Computer Security areas. The courses are typically called "research hours," but are formal and involve significant contact hours between the faculty member and the student during the semester. These research-related courses are BIS 8000, Research/Thesis, and BIS 9000, Research/Dissertation.

The two faculty members involved are Dr. Merrill Warkentin and Dr. Kirk Arnett. Both Dr. Warkentin and Dr. Arnett teach two courses per semester (total of four for the academic year) in addition to the research-related courses above. Considering the overall workload, Dr. Arnett would be a fulltime IA faculty member and Dr. Warkentin would be a greater than 50% IA faculty member.

The College of Business and Industry plans to continue support for the Center for Computer Security Research and will work to strengthen its relationship with the Center in years to come.

Sincerely,

Danny P. Hollingsworth
Interim Dean

