

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT  
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January 11, 2006

Dear Vice Provost Galloway,

Computer Science has developed a full blown Computer Science: Computer Game Design degree that we are very excited about. Student interest is very high as verified by the new lower division gaming course CMPS80k immediately filling up at 170 plus students. Many of our faculty had already integrated gaming material into their standard courses because of their pedagogic value. An example is the tessellation game of life that is used in our introductory Java programming course. Further examples include the MORPH – chess game in CMPS140 and various graphics games in CMPS161.

Computer Science will cover any needed lecturer salaries and TA expenses from our existing budget allocation. We have discussed this extensively with Dean Kang and see no problems. We will also readily pay for and video game software that is needed for critical analysis. Again these expenses are minor and existing discretionary funds will readily cover them. Furthermore we have a good working relationship with Microsoft, who in the past has granted us free license to their software such as Visual Stdios.Net. We also have been in touch with Electronic Arts and believe that we will readily get educational licenses for any needed software. Much of the software we intend to use is open source and free.

Computer Science has contacted all the departments that might be impacted by this new degree and have gotten their endorsement of this program. In many instances the additional enrollments will not be noticed. For example CS students are required to take math courses and this capacity is already built into the math and ams courses. Critical is Film and Digital Media and we are working closely with their faculty to monitor potential difficulties.

We look forward to getting quick approval from the various academic senate committees and the campus. We have already had substantial feedback on preliminary forms of the proposal and have used those insights to put together the accompanying final document.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ira Pohl", written over a white background.

Dr. Ira Pohl, Fellow of the ACM  
Chair, Department of Computer Science  
University of California at Santa Cruz