

New Program Proposal Dean's Memo

May 1, 2016

To: Executive Vice President and Provost Chase:

From: Dean Brent Hathaway

RE: Proposed Master of Science in Data Analytics and Applied Economics

The Lee Business School (LBS) MS in Management Information Systems currently delivers concepts associated with data gathering, data management and programming. The LBS MS in Economics currently delivers concepts associated with economic reasoning and statistical analysis. The joint MS in Data Analytics and Applied Economics offers these concepts in a single graduate degree program.

The Master of Science in Data Analytics and Applied Economics meets the needs of students seeking knowledge of information technology and economic and statistical analysis. As evidenced by the materials submitted with this proposal, the demand for these skills is high. Moreover, the proposed program uses only existing courses and resources. Expectations are that the program will attract high quality students and faculty without placing any additional burden on the State.

The addition of the MS in Data Analytics and Applied Economics is consistent with the LBS Strategic Plan. The plan calls for the college to "cultivate student success by identifying relevant and market-driven knowledge areas", and to "nurture excellence and achievement by identifying and enhancing each department's distinctive capabilities in teaching, research, and service". Providing this new degree program is consistent with these goals.

Sincerely,



Brent Hathaway