

# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 20 October 2009

**TO:** Dr. Sherry Queener, Chair-Graduate Affairs  
Committee

**FROM:** Jay Siegel

**RE:** Master of Science in Forensic Science – Review 2

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I wish to thank reviewer 2 for the helpful comments concerning the Master of Science in Forensic Science proposal that is before the Graduate Affairs Council. I would like to address the reviewer's concerns in this memo. I will list each concern and then my response to it so that my responses will be easier to follow. I look forward to GAC consideration of this proposal.

- There is a large concern for the lack of mention of the program at University of Indianapolis since they do offer a "Human Biology" program with a Forensics (skeletal) focus, and U of I has been advertising something else in the (forensics) works; perhaps at a grad level.

I have been in contact on many occasions with Dr. Steven Nawrocki, Forensic Anthropologist at UINDY. He has delivered lectures in my class and I in his. We are well aware of his program and he is aware of ours. There is no overlap. UINDY will not compete with IUPUI in the general forensic science area. At this time they have only courses in forensic anthropology and no degree program. They may consider one in the future but it will be pretty much limited to forensic anthropology.

- The reviewer as felt that it would strengthen the proposal to consider ties with "Forensic Imaging". They also noted that Shiao-fin Feng in Computer Science has an interest in this area.

The Institute for Forensic Imaging (IFI) is run by Herb Blitzer, who is an adjunct in Computer Science and in Forensic Science. His institute teaches classes in forensic imaging and forensic photography for the Forensic Science program at the undergraduate level. IFI also has grants where Dr. Feng and other faculty in Computer Science participate. We have no present plans to offer imaging classes to our graduate students but that may be a possibility in the future.

- It was also shared that Anthropology may be willing to add a letter of support as they are also preparing a grad program proposal that could include some links. Anthropology has hired a new bio anthropologist who has interest in skeletal biology/forensics.

Our undergraduate program has a concentration in forensic anthropology which is supported by the anthropology department, who offers classes in forensic anthropology and related areas. If the Dept. of Anthropology offers a graduate program with a concentration or other focus in

forensic anthropology, we would be happy to consider offering some of our courses to their graduate students in support of their program, such as our graduate level introduction to forensic science or our forensic science and law course. Richard Ward and I have discussed these possibilities in the past.