MEMORANDUM

Date: October 8, 2004
To: Dr. Michael T. Hammond, Head, Department of Linguistics
From: John W. Olsen, Professor and Head
Re: Master's Degree in Human Language Technology

I am pleased to have been recently informed that your department has received ABOC approval to implement a Professional Master of Science degree in Human Language Technology (HLT).

I write today to express my ongoing enthusiastic support of this initiative.

From an anthropological perspective, it is clear to me that a specialized Master's in HLT constitutes a logical and important complement to the Joint Program in Anthropological Linguistics that has linked our two departments at the doctoral level for many years.

In addition to the program's promised pedagogical content, I am especially supportive of configuring this degree program's orientation toward student training for the non-academic job market. It seems to me that linguistically-focused knowledge and practice can be very effectively applied in settings such as project management in a wide variety of corporate contexts.

I hope you and your colleagues will continue to keep me informed of specific ways in which my department and I can help you implement this important goal. In the meantime, please know that your new MS program strikes me as salient, timely, and important, especially in the context of Focused Excellence here at the University of Arizona.