MEMORANDUM

TO: Eugene Sander, Provost
FROM: Chuck Tatum, Dean of Humanities

June 18, 2007

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal to establish a Center for LGBT Studies. Since 1993, the Committee for LGBT Studies has built a successful, nationally recognized program that integrates research, curricular development, public programming, and university-community collaborations across disciplines, departments, and Colleges. Establishment of the Center provides a crucial opportunity to support and expand these activities, which have greatly benefited the University of Arizona, as well as local and regional communities.

College of Humanities’ faculty have been central to the formation and development of LGBT Studies, where they hold key roles on the governing Committee as well as in planning events and fostering curriculum. LGBT Studies has provided our faculty with opportunities to build interdisciplinary partnerships between the Humanities and other Colleges around critical areas of shared concern. It has also contributed to faculty retention, intellectual growth, professional success, and the feeling that UA is welcoming toward diverse populations.

LGBT Studies has contributed to COH undergraduate and graduate student retention and success, too. This includes by providing committed faculty who serve as role models and mentors; ensuring that LGBT-related courses are offered regularly; and organizing activities including conferences, film screenings and lectures by prominent scholars, which enhance curriculum and prepare students to engage with diverse communities.

Not only College of Humanities’ faculty and students, but the UA as a whole and the Tucson community will greatly benefit from the establishment of the Center. I strongly endorse this proposal.