MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 23, 2007

TO: Chair, Undergraduate Council
C/O Sandra Baker Gonzales
Program Coordinator, Sr.

FROM: Jim Shockey, Associate Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Science:

RE: Proposal for a B.S. in Geography

I am writing on behalf of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean’s Office to
express our strong support for the attached proposal to create a Bachelor of Science
degree in Geography at the University of Arizona. If approved, the new degree program
will:

- Bring the offerings in our Department of Geography and Regional Development
  (GRD) in line with those of other nationally-ranked geography programs;
- Balance the options available to undergraduates, including critical areas related to
  GIS, environment and water;
- Over time led to a better balance in the number of majors across areas as students
  interested in geography shift among the degree programs; and
- Require no additional resources

We also weigh heavily the fact that the creation of the B.S. degree program in Geography
was one of the strongest and most critical recommendations in both external and internal
reports associated with GRD’s recent Academic Program Review.

For all of these reasons and given the wide-ranging benefit at virtually no added cost, we
are convinced that approving the proposed Bachelor of Science degree should be a high
institutional priority.

Please feel free to contact Dean Donnerstein or me if you have additional questions or
concerns.