

August 12, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide my support for the creation of the provisional center for Data Science, as proposed by Associate Professor Jeff Phillips and 10 other faculty from the School of Computing and the department of Mathematics. Data science is a quickly growing area that is significantly impacting many areas including Biomedical Informatics. Hence, timing is great to start such a center to help coalesce the research efforts on campus. I am hopeful that the creation of this center will generate increased collaborations between faculty in BMI and those in the center. Some of our faculty members intend on attending the weekly seminar offered by this group and our department will provide an affiliate member to the group.

The faculty proposing the center have been integral to many of the data science engagement activities on campus. Data Science Day has been popular with students from the department of BMI where they found the experience rewarding. Many of our students take data science and visualization courses with these faculty members, which in turn strengthens our research program. We look forward to further collaboration, activities and educational endeavors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are questions or further information is needed.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Eilbeck, PhD  
Professor and Interim Chair  
Department of Biomedical Informatics  
University of Utah