**CHARTER**
**Center for Computer Security Research (CCSR)**
**James Worth Bagley College of Engineering**
**Mississippi State University**

**Background:**

Mississippi State University was named a National Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Information Assurance Education in 2001 by the National Security Agency, making it one of only 26 institutions in the nation at that time with CAE credentials. CAE certifications are for a 3-year period after which recertification is required; MSU was recertified in 2004 by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. The Center for Computer Security Research (CCSR) was established within the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in 2001 by a group of faculty and students with interest in information assurance research and with support from the Vice President of Research at MSU. The Center quickly attracted state and national level attention in the area of computer security and was successful in obtaining significant external grant support. The Center has been self sustaining since 2001 and has continued to grow in terms of faculty, students, research, and service. The Center is recognized today as multidisciplinary, contributing Center within the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering.

**Mission and Functions:**

The *mission* of the CCSR is to serve as a focus organization for collaborative work with faculty and students from multiple colleges at MSU in the area of computer security and information assurance. The *specific research activities* of the CCSR include intrusion detection/anomaly detection in high performance computing systems, homeland security initiatives, computer forensics, support to law enforcement, management of secure information systems, criminal justice issues in cyber crime, cyber policy and procedure, empirical study of security engineering, and education in information assurance. Its *functions* include support and guidance to graduate students working on computer security research projects, promotion of cross-disciplinary research and research proposals, facilitating collaborations with other academic institutions and industry, and service support to our State and region – particularly to the law enforcement community. Its *educational activity* is embodied in two national scholarship programs that are managed within the CCSR, course offerings at the graduate and undergraduate levels, and an outreach effort to secondary school systems, community colleges, and to four year institutions seeking to enter into the information assurance field. The CCSR is *interdisciplinary* in that multiple Colleges at MSU are collaborating and *intra-disciplinary* in that multiple research areas within the College of Engineering are working together on established grants.

**Membership in the CCSR:**

Faculty affiliated with the CCSR are listed at http://www.security.cse.msstate.edu/. Approximately fifty students, at both the graduate and undergraduate level, have been involved in scholarships offered by the Center, research activity, and publishing. Membership is voluntary in the center. Faculty desiring to affiliate with the CCSR must have an active research interest in information assurance, a willingness to support the activities of the Center (to include

collaborative grant applications, outreach activities, discussions with potential teaming partners, and meeting at the call of the Center Director). Requests for membership will be considered and approved by the Director, CCSR.

**Organization and Evaluation of Staff:**
A Director of the CCSR will be nominated by the Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering in consultation with the Dean of the Bagley College of Engineering and the Associate Dean for Research. The nomination will be forwarded by the Dean to the Vice President for Research for final approval. An Associate Director may be appointed by the Director of the CCSR subject to the concurrence of the Dean of Engineering and the appropriate department head. The annual evaluation of the Director of the CCSR will be accomplished by the appropriate department head having oversight of the faculty member acting as CCSR director. The Associate Director will be evaluated by the appropriate department head with letter input from the Director, Center for Computer Security Research. Faculty members affiliated with the CCSR will continue to be evaluated by their home department with no change in process.

**Revisions to Charter:**
Proposed revisions to this Charter should be submitted to the Director, CCSR. The Director will provide the proposed revision to the tenured or tenured track faculty affiliated with the CCSR at the time the proposed revision is received. The faculty will discuss the revision and a vote will be taken. If a majority of the faculty vote for the revision, the proposed revision and the faculty vote will be transmitted to the Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering. The Head, CSE will consult with the Dean, Bagley College of Engineering. If approved by the Head, CSE, the Dean and a majority of the CCSR voting faculty – the Charter will be modified.

Approved:
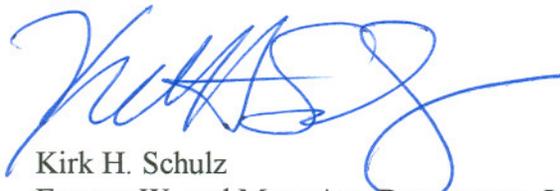
Kirk H. Schulz
Earnest W. and Mary Ann Deavenport, Jr. Chair and Dean
James Worth Bagley College of Engineering