ASSOCIATE AND ASSISTANT DEANS’ REPORTS

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, LINDA SMITH - In order to gauge interest in both on-campus and LEEP courses for summer, a course pre-selection Moodle space has been set up to record student preferences through March 19. On the basis of these data, decisions will be made on whether any courses should be removed from the summer schedule because of low anticipated demand. All students planning to enroll in one or more summer courses are asked to record their preferences. Work continues on finalizing the fall schedule, to be complete by March 5.

Spring semester LEEP on-campus takes place March 4-8. The schedule includes on-campus activities for 42 LEEP courses and many special events (http://groups.lis.illinois.edu/oncampus/SP10oncampus.html).

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ADVANCEMENT, DIANA STROUD – No report submitted.

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR COMMUNICATIONS, CINDY ASHWILL - (1) On 2/24, the new GSLIS website was released for internal review on a test server: http://wwwprod.lis.illinois.edu/. It features the School's new visual identity and offers a new level of functionality, including a faster editorial process, categories and tags connecting news items with faculty research interests, improved RSS feeds, and opportunities for including user-generated content. Cindy, Garret, and Kim are working to incorporate feedback, fix broken links, and resolve other small issues prior to the public launch during the first week of March. Faculty are asked to review their profile pages and contact Cindy (cashwill@illinois.edu) with any changes to their research interests, which now function as categories and tags. (2) The Annual Report is with the designer, and this will be the first publication to incorporate the new visual identity.

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, ERIK HEGE – After much work by many people, but primarily Garret Gengler (at least from the IT staff), the new GSLIS website is scheduled to go live this week. Some links need to be fixed, and other updates are needed, but in general it is ready.

Campus level discussions continue regarding a single solution for calendaring and email. It is unlikely anything will change before next calendar year. It still looks like an Exchange solution for faculty and staff with outsourced email for undergrad students is the most likely outcome. It is still being debated how graduate/professional students will be handled as including them in the Exchange architecture significantly increases the costs. A funding model is also still being debated.

We are in the early stages of replacing the central file storage system. This will likely not happen until summer. Notifications will be sent out early about any downtime.

Most of the servers will be updated to a new version of the Debian operating system in the near future. Again, communications will be sent out regarding the change and any downtime.

Finally, a reminder, if any of you or your students have questions or technical problems, contact the GSLIS Help Desk at 800-377-1892, 217-244-4903, or help@support.lis.illinois.edu.

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH, ALLEN RENEAR – No report submitted.
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Rae-Anne Montague – LEEP Weekend is this week—March 4-8. The full schedule is available at: http://groups.lis.illinois.edu/oncampus/SP10oncampus.html

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Master’s students, Fredrick Lugya – No report submitted.

CAS students, Emily Shaw – Had nothing to report.

Ph.D. students, Richard Urban – Had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE/PROGRAM REPORTS

Admissions Committee, Jon Gant - The Admissions Committee would like to report that the committee members are reviewing the applications for Summer and Fall 2010 admissions. The reviews were completed on March 1 and the committee met on March 2 to finalize the admissions. Each member reviewed approximately 75-80 applications. We will update the admissions statistics for the April 2010 faculty meeting.

Curriculum Committee, Stephen Downie – New course development (e.g., the basic technology course) planned for summer or fall. Subcommittee met to work on content of course from pre-existing models from other institutions.

Factors to consider in completing the summer and fall schedule. Linda outlined the many competing factors and new challenges posed by budget issues, etc.

Course load calculations. Discussed the implications of various methods and ideas.

Release practices for ICES forms. Turns out that the default is not to have results released automatically for Executive Committee review. Also discussed the situation where instructors forget to ask to be considered for the "Incomplete List"

Intellectual property issues concerning online classes. Discussed various issues concerning the appropriate/inappropriate re-use of GSLIS online materials.

Doctoral Studies Committee, Carole Palmer – Field Exams: Reading lists have been completed and approved for the three exams. The committees are in the process of developing exam questions. We request that the chairs forward the exams to the DSC for review as soon as possible—they were due 2/26. The committee also wants to remind faculty to have students develop their lists prior to the semester of the exam, as stated in the guidelines: “Typically, the Reading List is compiled before the semester in which the Field Exam is taken.”

Admissions: The committee has scheduled or completed 18 interviews with the top candidates. So far, 7 will receive letters of acceptance. Based on the number of funded positions available and GSLIS TA needs, we are targeting an incoming class of 12. Thank you to all who have provided comments and participated in the interviews.

Faculty Senate report, Jon Gant/Terry Weech – The Senate business on February 22, 2010 covered a number of reports and agenda items, all of which were approved with minimal discussion. The Agenda as well as minutes of Senate meetings can be found at: http://www.senate.illinois.edu/
The discussion of ICES (Instructor and Course Evaluation System) online took much of the meeting time. John Ory, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence and Chris Migotsky, Head of Measurement & Evaluation, did a brief presentation on ICES online, presented a handout on advantages and drawbacks to the online system and then opened the session up to comments. Most of the senators who participated in the comments and discussion had concerns over the reliability and validity of the online measures given the decrease in response rate and the evidence that the standard deviations of scores for faculty evaluations has increased in the online delivery method. The concerns of GSLIS faculty expressed to your Senators were conveyed in the comments period and these concerns seemed to be shared by others present. The ICES staff listened with interest. GSLIS was not the only constituency to express concerns about various aspects of the implementation of online evaluations. Thank you to all of you who provided feedback to the earlier call for input.

Compiled by Dorlene Clark