ASSOCIATE AND ASSISTANT DEANS’ REPORTS

Associate Dean for Research, Stephen Downie –
*Space in the building—storage and faculty usage
*Senior Research Programmer search
*Coming soon: a “Research News” bulletin board, which will feature papers/posters/articles by and about GSLIS faculty. If anyone has anything that they would like to share, please let Molly know.
*Proposed Center for Digital Inclusion. We are getting the policy from the Provost’s office, and are beginning the process (Jon Gant)

Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Linda Smith –
Some updates as we begin a new academic year:
1. Every seven years the M.S. program is reviewed by the Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association. As part of this process, a six-member External Review Panel (ERP) will visit GSLIS October 1-5 and M.S. students will be invited to meet with the ERP during that time. Prior to the site visit, all M.S. students will have an opportunity to respond to a short web-based survey as input to the review process. We have prepared a detailed Program Presentation providing evidence in relation to each of the Standards for Accreditation (http://www.lis.illinois.edu/academics/programs/ms/accreditation). Following the site visit, the ERP will prepare a report which is submitted to the Committee on Accreditation. The Committee on Accreditation will review this report and the Program Presentation at its meeting in January 2012 during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas and make a decision regarding reaccreditation of the M.S. program. All M.S. students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to participate in the review process. The ERP will also be consulting with GSLIS faculty, staff, alumni, and employers of our graduates.

2. The deadline for finalizing the spring 2012 schedule is September 30, so I will be working with full-time and adjunct faculty over the next month to develop a schedule that reflects likely demand for courses in the spring.

3. Both GSLIS and the Graduate College encourage graduate students to present at conferences. The GSLIS Student Travel Support policy can be found at: http://www.lis.illinois.edu/about-gslis/policies/travel-student. Information about Graduate College Conference Travel Awards can be found at: http://www.grad.illinois.edu/general/travelaward. Note that those seeking support from Graduate College Conference Travel Awards (amounts up to $300) should apply to GSLIS (submit completed application to Linda Smith or Valerie Youngen) by September 19 in the fall and February 20 in the spring. GSLIS is limited to submitting five applications to the Graduate College each fall and spring on behalf of GSLIS students.

4. Over the summer I have been working with interested students and faculty on the Structure working group, discussing development of policies and procedures for addressing formal and informal grievances from students. This fall we will be taking the lead in addressing some of the next steps identified in Dean Unsworth's recent report on Outcomes of the Spring 2011 Town Hall Meetings at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. These include:
   a) Articulate an explicit, low-threshold, and low-risk mechanism for identifying problems and developing solutions, whether they involve students, faculty, or staff.
b) Discuss and document the important role of elected student representatives at GSLIS, and include them in the development of policies that bear on support of students and the student experience in the School.

Assistant Dean for Communications, Cindy Ashwill –

This academic year begins with an increased focus on social media efforts, as the Communications Office welcomes Laura Spradlin as our new graduate assistant. Laura will focus on executing social media strategies, with the goal of increasing connections among members of the GSLIS internal and external communities and strengthening their affiliation with the School. One of her first projects is assisting with the GSLIS Fall Reunion. She will develop a Flickr yearbook, post information and photos on Facebook, assist with video creation, and connect with student groups, encouraging alumni interaction.

Two publications currently are in the final stages of production: the GSLIS Campaign Booklet will be available in mid-September, and the 2011 Annual Report will be published in October. The next GSLIS Magazine is scheduled for publication in November.

Reminders for this semester include:
- Submit events as soon as possible for the GSLIS calendar (email web@support.lis.illinois.edu).
- Please share information about interesting student projects for the website (email cashwill@illinois.edu).
- Vertical display banners are available for use at GSLIS-approved events (email cashwill@illinois.edu).

Assistant Dean for Infrastructure, Erik Hege – no report submitted

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Rae-Anne Montague –

*206 students graduated in May & August.
*280 students began studies this summer/fall (140 LEEP & 140 campus). Meg is providing academic profile information.
*LAMP Institute was hosted at U Wisconsin, Milwaukee in June. There are 48 scholars at all stages of study (undergrad-post MS; http://lisaccess.org/lamp/).
*$725,923 IMLS grant, "Mix IT Up!" focusing on recruiting fellows to participate in intentional, long-term, structured engagement with community groups in order to gain experience and contextual knowledge to become youth advocates began in August. It is modeled on success in Community Informatics and Youth Services (e.g., elseyjdc.wordpress.com).
*All school welcome back bbq/potluck sponsored by various student groups is 9/7 from 5-7 pm at Illini Grove (SE campus).
*LEEP on-campus is 10/20-24. LEEP Dinner is 10/22 at 6pm at the University YMCA. Thanks to all LEEP instructors for sending needs information to Molly. Full schedule will be posted this week.

Assistant Dean for Advancement, Diana Stroud –

*We had a record turnout for the GSLIS ALA reception in New Orleans with more than 150 people attending.
*It is never too early to begin thinking about our Awards for next year. You can nominate people anytime, so please do not wait until the last minute. Check the LSAA website for categories and criteria.
*GSLIS will have an exhibit and a reception at ILA this year.
*The Brilliant Futures Campaign for GSLIS will end December 31, 2011. It is not too late to make your gift and have it recognized during the campaign. We have created more than 40 new funds for GSLIS.
The majority of the funds are scholarships and fellowships for students. We are still working to raise funding for our first endowed chair and the LSAA Endowed Professorship.

*I hope you will all participate in activities surrounding the Fall Alumni Reunion and appreciate all of the support you have provided. We would like to make this an annual event and will appreciate your feedback.

*Please check the calendar on our website for all of the receptions and activities happening this fall, we are everywhere! As always, please let me know if our office can assist in anyway.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**Masters students, Ben Rodriguez** – no report submitted

**CAS students** – representative TBD

**PhD students, Brittany Smith** – no report submitted

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Admissions Committee, Jon Gant** –
The Admissions Committee met on 9/16/11 to get new members oriented and to plan our tasks for the upcoming year.

In our discussion, we discussed ways to make earlier decisions. We would like approval to move the admission deadlines to the following dates:

1. For the MS program
   a. Move on-campus deadline for Fall admission from January 15 to December 1
   b. Move LEEP admission for Fall from March 1 to February 1
   c. Keep October 15 for January admission

The members of the committee feel that the December 1 date will permit us to do the reviews over the winter break when we have more flexibility in our schedules and this will certainly help the office staff get letters out earlier to our candidates and make us competitive with other schools.

Do we need a policy for protecting personally identifiable information? With our paperless admission system, each committee member downloads a personally identifiable information in each application to review them on screen or in print. Our team works on the applications away from campus, during travel and so on. We developed some informal things to do to protect the information from secure deletion, no applications on removable devices, and shred paper applications. Other items to address are: what should we do if our laptop is lost or stolen with admission applications stored on them? What level of deletion should we perform on our machines? Is it ok to use public computers to review applications? Any other recommendations on this topic are welcomed.

**Curriculum Committee, Mike Twidale** –
Proposed update of the Bylaws (VII.A.1.a): The Curriculum Committee shall be responsible for all aspects of the MS curriculum, subject to the approval of the full faculty on substantive issues, including but not limited to: establishing degree requirements for the MS and CAS degrees; working with Faculty in the development of new courses, and monitoring the curriculum as a whole.

**Doctoral Studies Committee, Les Gasser** –