GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE  
Faculty Pre-Meeting Reports  
for the  
Wednesday, December 9, 2009, faculty meeting

I ASSOCIATE AND ASSISTANT DEANS’ REPORTS

A. Allen Renear - By the end of the 2009 calendar year GSLIS will have submitted 23 proposals, an increase of 7 over last year's submission total of 16. These projects total $7.5M; last year's total was $6.1M. We are in the midst of analyzing trends in GSLIS funding over the last five years and will be reporting further on those in the future. I'll reiterate that my group is eager to help with any aspect of GSLIS research, not just securing and managing funding. Please contact me or Janet Eke if you think we may be of any assistance. For more information: http://www.lis.illinois.edu/research/services/.

B. Linda Smith - The GSLIS M.S. program in library and information science is reviewed by the Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association every seven years. As part of this review, a site visit by a six-member External Review Panel will be scheduled for fall 2011. In anticipation of this site visit, by December 22 GSLIS has been asked to identify potential dates in fall 2011 for the visit, preferences for special competencies of individuals to be named to the External Review Panel, and any special focus areas planned for our Program Presentation. More details on the accreditation process can be found at http://www.ala.org/accreditation.

C. Cindy Ashwill - The website project is going well. Migration of content into Drupal continues and is expected to conclude within the next month. Thanks to those who responded to the design with feedback; your comments were helpful in creating the final look, which has been completed by Surface 51. A beta version of the site should be rolled out in January, and at that time there will be an opportunity to review basic functionality. Thereafter, the new website will be launched and enhancements will continue throughout the spring. In other news, the GSLIS Magazine has been mailed and posted online. If anyone needs a hard copy, please contact Kim Schmidt.

D. Erik Hege - Optimus (copier on 2nd floor) is now running as a printer, and print jobs can be stapled, hole punched, etc. Software requests were due on 11/30 – updates will be put on the lab machines over break. Spring 2010 class setup is done. Moodle upgrade to 1.9.7 will happen in January, the exact date and impact will be sent out via email, and other server patching will be scheduled. Doc study Macs will be installed this week. CITES may be replacing one of the network switches in the building over the reduced service days. The network would be completely unavailable for use during that time for those served by that switch. We will send out an email giving the scheduled time and those impacted if CITES decides to move forward with this change. For those who have classes in room 52, the heat has been looked at and the thermostat replaced. The temperature should be fine now. If there are any further problems, please report them to the front office or help desk.

E. Rae-Anne Montague - It has been a very challenging semester with Yingbo Zhou's untimely passing, several other unfortunate incidents, H1N1, economic/employment and political strains, the strike, etc. I encourage everyone to continue taking care of themselves and seeking extra support when needed. On the positive side, it has been gratifying to see how the GSLIS community comes together in facing adversity. The GSLIS Community Forums launched earlier in the semester are providing a venue for varied information exchange. I encourage you to participate there regularly. Access via the main Moodle (https://courses.lis.illinois.edu/). Feedback is most welcome. Several student groups have been very active this semester. You can see some of their activities on the School calendar. A couple upcoming highlights: 1.) This Friday, December 11, the ALA group is sponsoring the GSLIS Holiday Party at the University
YMCA at 6:30 pm. Plan to attend and bring an appetizer or dessert to share. 2.) Connections, a newly formed student group seeking to enrich academic, professional, and social ties, is launching a series of open meetings called 'Jobs and Java' to encourage students, staff, and others to come together to share job searching insights. First meeting was today (12/9). The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, in the second floor east kitchen area. Orientation for incoming spring students will take place in 2 parts. Staff will hold an information session on January 19. On Thursday, January 21, faculty are invited to participate in introductions and meet-n-greet from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the east foyer area. ICES online (https://ices.cte.uiuc.edu/) are available for students through Thursday, December 10. Please encourage those in your course(s) to complete the evaluation. The deadline to submit fall grades in Self-Service (https://apps.illinois.edu/selfservice/) is Tuesday, December 22, at noon. If you have questions, please contact Valerie (vyoungen@illinois.edu).

F. Diana Stroud - With the end of the calendar year we are preparing for what we hope will be a constant stream of gifts to GSLIS. We will be available to process gifts through the end of the year. Our office is working closely with Dean Unsworth, the business office and admissions office to formalize an electronic endowment fund system that can be used by all those involved in identifying scholarship and fellowship awards for students. With the change in requirements for fellowships, the number of students in need and the limited financial resources available there is an ongoing need to develop additional private resources for student support. If you have any ideas or suggestions on ways to do that we would welcome them. GSLIS alumni and staff did participate last week in the Silicon Valley Roundtable sponsored by the University in San Francisco. There were about 150 people in attendance, more than six units from the campus and many corporations. We have scheduled a trip to Austin Texas in early January, if you know of any alums you think we should see please let me know asap. We will also be in Washington, DC and Boston. After the semester ends we will have just one graduate student to assist in our office. Students play a critical role in our stewardship process, so we will be working hard to close that gap after the first of the year.

II STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. Master’s students - GSLIS community was greatly saddened by the sudden and tragedy death of our fellow master’s student Yingbo Zhou in a hit-and-run accident on November 23. There have been a lot of positives during the semester, but this incident has shaken everyone and had a great impact to the whole of campus community. She will be missed by everyone. On behalf of all masters students, I would like to pass on our sincere appreciation for each and everyone’s contributions that brought the community together in this trying time; the way her memorial was planned and given an opportunity to work through the pressures. May the Almighty Lord rest her soul in internal peace. Lastly, the semester has almost come to an end, on behalf of the masters students and my own behalf, I would like to use this opportunity to thank our lovely Faculty and Staff here at GSLIS for the knowledge and courage that you have showed us all through this Fall semester. We have gained a lot from you. Thanks so much and have a lovely Christmas and prosperous 2010.

B. CAS students - CAS students would like to organize monthly virtual meetings to discuss CAS-specific issues (particularly the CAS Final Project). Faculty who advise CAS students are encouraged to join these meetings. Evening’s are looking best, though a date and time for the first such meeting is still TBD. Several students have expressed a feeling that because they are not part of any cohort (as LEEP, MS, and PhD students are), it is easy to loose focus and feel isolated within the CAS program. CAS students are uncertain about the CAS Final Project. Namely, they do not know when they ought to begin, how to initiate the process, and how long it ought to take. Their experience is that some faculty members share their uncertainty. Although the CAS timeline will differ depending on whether students are full- or part-time, some sort of rough timeline with milestones (such as the one provided for PhD students at http://www.lis.illinois.edu/programs/phd/phd-phases.html on the GSLIS website) toward the completion of the CAS and the CAS Final Project would be very helpful to students and faculty.

C. Ph.D. students - With respect to the recent GEO strike, appreciation was expressed for the faculty support as evidenced by the formal statement as well as informal conversations had with faculty. Dean
Unsworth's willingness to meet with GSLIS GEO members was appreciated as was the release of the non-retaliation statement. Concern was expressed that the Help Desk was staffed with non-GEO labor during the course of the strike.

III COMMITTEE/PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Admissions Committee - The Admissions Committee is in the process of reviewing applications for the MS and CAS class for Spring 2010. We are very grateful to Valerie and Penny for all of their help organizing and running the admission process. All of the members of the committee are now fully trained to use the paperless admission system and are comfortable using the new system. A copy of, the Spring 2010 admission statistics (as of 12/2/09) will be distributed at the meeting, and a copy will be on file with the minutes.

B. Curriculum Committee - Discussion items from the November 3, 2009, Curriculum Committee meeting included: 1. Continued review of 590 courses with an eye toward weeding or making permanent select courses. 2. IT competencies for MS students. Discussion about the nature of a possible required(?) course to put students on a more equal footing with regard to basic IT knowledge and skills. Dr. McDonough to lead in laying out the course framework. 3. Input from faculty about IT skills has been complied and will be circulated. 4. Possible research methods requirement for CAS students to ensure stronger final projects. 5. Update on status of undergraduate major presented by Dr. Smith. Proposal currently at campus level. Work to be done about defining which courses are undergrad, MS, or mixed. Curriculum Committee meeting minutes are available on Moodle at: https://courses.lis.illinois.edu/mod/resource/view.php?id=48155&subdir=/Meeting_Minutes

C. Doctoral Studies Committee - 1) In reviewing the campus Admissions Task Force Report, a few things to note: DSC members will need to be familiar with the Ethical Code of Practice that was developed. GSLIS will need to be prepared for the “intensive review” scheduled for summer 2010 and future annual reviews. Materials to be gathered by the Senate Admissions Committee include: admissions criteria used by different programs, publicity of admissions processes, admissions decision statistics for undergraduate and graduate/professional programs, appeals and resulting decisions, complaints about admissions, admissions training and education processes regarding policies and the Ethical Code of Practice, and entries to the Third-Party Inquiry Log. 2) The PhD Students and Advisors page has been updated with the most recent information available to the committee. Please review and notify us of any corrections that are needed. (http://www.lis.illinois.edu/programs/phd/advisors.html). 3) An alert that the committee will begin reviewing applications soon. Over the course of the process we will be asking faculty members to look at files and comment on applicants in their area of interest. This year we begin using an online review system, which should simplify access to application materials.

D. Faculty Senate report - At the November 9, 2009 meeting, the UIUC Senate approved a number of Curriculum items, but not the UG Major submitted by GSLIS. After some discussion, the GSLIS UG major proposal was returned to Committee for further review. The Senate also approved a Resolution on Parking; Proposed Amendments to the Senate Constitution to support the inclusion of Other Academic Staff in the Senate Electorate (SP.09.03); and a Resolution related to the potential Graduate Employees Organization work stoppage. This last Resolution took no position on the potential strike, either for or against. It resolved to "join the Student Senate in their call for both the GEO and the University Administration to advance to a timely and fair resolution in regards to contract negotiations, and further urges campus departments to withhold retaliation against students choosing to peacefully participate in a potential work action." A more complete report provided by the Senate Chair was circulated to GSLIS Core Faculty by email on November 11, 2009. For prior minutes and agendas, please see: http://www.senate.illinois.edu/sen_a_m.asp

Compiled by Dorlene A. Clark