

iSchool Assembly Minutes  
Friday, December 3, 2021 - 9:30 am ET  
Location: Online (Zoom)

### **Preliminaries**

- Call to order
- Review and approval of minutes from September [\[link\]](#)
  - Motion: Beth St. Jean
  - Second: Gregg Vanderheiden
  - Approved unanimously
- Review and approval of this agenda
  - Motion: Pamela Duffy
  - Second: Beth St. Jean
  - Approved unanimously

### **Assembly Items**

#### *1. Dean's Update [Keith]*

- Introduction to those who have joined the iSchool since last assembly: Patty Doerfler, Madeline Georgevich, Nancy Murray (new chief development officer), and Sareil Brookins moving from academic advisor to a new role as HR DEI coordinator.
- Strategic plan is moving forward: thanks to John Bertot and Kate Izsak, Tammy Clegg, Paul Jaeger, Melekte Truneh, and Bill Kules. Steering committee is now working on spearheading initiatives, more news to come!
- “6G” - the next generation of G - is an interest of the campus and there may be opportunities for people working there.
- Center of ethics and AI being driven by John Hardy and there are opportunities to be involved.
- Telework is going really well with Staff and we are fully back on campus (with two days telework). We are working towards in person for faculty as well, with in person APT meetings next year. Some logistics need to be sorted out like room size.
- Questions about funding: has our base pay increased given our increased enrollment? Answer: This is a topic we bring up frequently with the provost- our pressing needs are space and budget. Question: What about COLA with inflation? Answer: University is asking for money with the state surplus- priorities are base pay and merit pay.
- Question about minor in data science and how it intersects with iSchool: the data science program in CNMS is a deep data science analytics course, with more of a focus on advancing our technical approaches. This is different than ours, which is geared towards applying data science to social science. With other courses as well, there are clear boundaries between what we do and what other departments are doing.

## 2. *Information challenge initiative [Kathy and Donal]* (see slides for further detail)

- Some new changes! Two new tracks, cybersecurity and design
- UMD, US naval academy, UMBC, and Montgomery challenge participating
- The subname is “Going beyond data”
- Weeklong event (Feb 26-March 5). This event is different than a hackathon, because they work really hard to make sure there is a great dataset with support from mentors. This is low stress, no grades, opportunity for students, including those who never done data analysis before.
- There will be more opportunities to talk to/hear from dataset providers as this really helps students understand.
- Adding mentors as well.
- New workshops for students who are entirely new, like “where do I start”?
- First day more filled with activities, as students work with mentors during the week
- Hybrid model this year for first session to enable more participation (last year was remote and was wildly successful!), then in person for showcase and judging day (with backup online being planned just in case)
- Everyone is welcome!! The showcase is a great way to come see what people are doing.
- Beth St. Jean spoke about what a great experience it has been to be involved
- Need more mentors and judges!
- Summer camp - they piloted an intensive five-day summer camp program targeting Prince George and Montgomery county (with incredible support from Prince George’s county library program). Mixture of discord and zoom with really present, engaged students.
- This year, plan is to do two! The goal is 50 students, on campus (targeting local counties). Want opportunities to introduce students, particularly first generation students, to college life- the campus, how to navigate dining, those kinds of things. Then a virtual way to introduce people who can’t get to campus.
- Question: How can we help? Answer: Looking for mentors who can focus on cybersecurity and design. You can sign up on the form with your specialty. Hoping that more people from the iSchool will want to be advisors or mentors. A good way to test out the waters is to be a mentor for the first year or come to the showcase. There are volunteering opportunities.
- Question about naming. Answer: Students can put their track on their CV.
- Thank you to everyone who has participated!! So much support from different people in the iSchool.
- Email Kathy or Donal or [infochallenge@umd.edu](mailto:infochallenge@umd.edu) with any questions or if you want more information about how to be involved!

## 3. *iConsultancy recruiting [Bill]*

- A semi-annual call for project ideas and referrals for the program
- Last year they ran 92 projects that engaged about 500 students!
- This Fall they ran 46 (fall is usually smaller than spring). They will need about 70 projects in the spring (about halfway there).
- Please use your contacts and projects to find good experiential learning projects for our undergraduate and master’s students.

- Example projects presented by Andy Fellows and Katie Shilton.

4. *Update on undergrad general education proposal from the Diversity and Equity Task Force [Bill and Donal]*

- Going up through levels for approval
- Bringing up some pushback with focus on anti-racism
- Would be useful to have some folks from the iSchool speak at the senate
- Donal: Big change being proposed is that instead of being able to take two of one kind of educational and diversity requirements- you should take one of each (theory and practice)
- Website: <https://www.ugst.umd.edu/detf.html>
- The DETF report (updated Sep 2021): <https://ugst.umd.edu/documents/DETFReportSept2021updated.pdf>
- Frequently asked questions: <https://ugst.umd.edu/detf-faqs.html>
- If you are interested in implementing changes in general education, come speak to Donal!
- Report where we are now/discussion at December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. March is the vote.

5. Announcements

- Bill Kules: Nisa Asgarali-Hoffman (PhD Student) has worked for two years in the leadership of ARTS and is now stepping down. So ARTS seminar has an opening for a student representative.
- Sarah Grun: Winter commencements is quickly approaching (Dec 22 at noon) but faculty should arrive earlier to line up. Look out for upcoming logistics email. Direct parents/ student questions to Sarah's EMAIL or ischoolevents@umd.edu email.
- Jeff Waters: If you have students who are falling behind, have disappeared from classes, let Jeff know for graduates and Ron for undergraduates. This is a tough semester and we want to support our students as much as possible! Also, soft launch of graduate ambassador program, send Jeff or Tetyana an email if you want to brainstorm on how to work with an ambassador.
- David Loshin: One of the recruiting approaches for the GEM program is a webinar, please share with your students!

**Adjournment**

**In attendance:**

Alex Leitch  
Amanda Lazar  
Ana Ndumu  
Andy Fellows  
Beth Bonsignore  
Beth L St Jean  
Bill Kules  
Brian Butler  
Bryan Wonsang Hwang  
Caro Williams-Pierce  
Carol Boston (she/her)  
Charlene Ploetz Savoy  
Charlie Harry-UMD  
Chris Stark  
Craig Allan Taylor  
Daniel Marcus Greene  
David Loshin  
David Weintrop  
Dennis Frezzo  
Diana E. Marsh  
Donal Heidenblad  
Doug Oard  
Dustin Smith  
Emilia Azar  
Emily Dacquisto  
Eric Hing-Tao Hung  
Eun Kyoung Choe  
Fabian Faccio (he#his#him)  
Fernando S Marciano  
Galina Reitz  
Ge Gao  
Gregg C Vanderheiden  
Hayleigh Brianne Moore  
Hernisa Kacorri  
Ido Sivan-Sevilla  
J Bern Jordan  
Jacqueline Armstrong  
Jaison Cooper  
Jason Aston

Jason R. Baron  
Jeff Waters  
Jess Feltner  
Jessica Vitak  
Jill Scarson  
Joan Olive Cole  
Joe Sherren  
Joel Chan  
Jonathan K Lazar  
Jordan C. Broutman  
Kari Kraus  
Kathy Weaver  
Katie Shilton  
Katrina Simone Fenlon  
Katy Lawley (she/her)  
Keith Marzullo  
Kibbi Henderson  
Liz Zogby  
Madeline Georgevich  
Matt Krishnan  
Maura Matvey  
Mega Subramaniam  
Melekte Y. Truneh  
Mia Katrina Hinckle  
Morgan Adle (she/her)  
Naielia Allen  
Nancy E. Murray  
Nate Beard (Nathan Beard)  
Neha Hareshkumar Wadhvani  
Niklas E Elmqvist  
Noah J Dibert (Noah James Dibert)  
Oliver Masangcay  
Pamela Duffy  
Patty L Doerfler  
Phil Piety  
Philip McCarty  
Ping Wang  
Renee F. Hill  
Rochelle Robinson  
Ryan O'Grady

Sarah Gilbert  
Sarah Grun  
Sareil Brookins  
Sergii Skakun  
Stacy Surla  
Susan Campbell  
Susan J Winter  
Susannah Paletz  
Tetyana Bezbabna  
Ursula Gorham-Oscilowski  
Vedat Diker  
Victoria Anne Van Hyning  
Wayne Lutters  
Wei Ai  
Yen Lin  
Zubin Jelveh