



COLLEGE OF INFORMATION STUDIES

iSchool Assembly Minutes

Date: Friday, February 1st, 2024 – 9:30 to 11:00 am

Location: Edward St. John Building, Room 2204

AGENDA

Preliminaries

- Call to order

Quorum recognized.

- Review and approval of minutes from December

Minutes approved without correction.

- Review and approval of this agenda

Agenda approved without correction.

Assembly Items

- Dean's Update [Keith Marzullo]

"Nothing's exploded yet."

New Colleagues

[Jessica Grimmer](#): Lecturer

[Yeweon Kim](#): (beginning next month)

[Preeti Lakhole](#): Faculty Assistant (alum)

[Irene Pasquetto](#): Assistant Professor

[Angela Rodgers-Koukoui](#): Lecturer

[Kourtney Roussey](#): Business Manager

[Mirela Stimus](#): Faculty Affairs Manager

Ongoing Faculty Searches

TTK assistant INFO-GVPT (campus interviews next week; 4 candidates)

TTK Open Rank-Libraries (best consideration date has passed—40 applicants)

TTK Open Rank-INFO-JPSM (applications open, best consideration date is February 16)

PTK Open Rank Lecturers

Staff searches

Assistant Dean IT & Facilities (on campus visits wrapped up, offers to be extended next week)

FinSpOP Director

2 Undergraduate Advisors (one replacement, one new for the Social Data Science major)

HR Coordinator (ongoing)

Payroll Coordinator (ongoing)

DEI Director (in future)

DEI Coordinator (in future)

Thanks to Joan Cole for this new location for our meeting and APT.

IT & Facilities

Secured!—\$700,000 from the University for renovations (thanks to Chris Hawley)

We've drafted a facility program report for DBM (Budget & Management) for releasing INFO Commons fund. The target is a return from DBM in summer 2024 and construction to start early 2025 (perhaps even December 2024).

FinSpOP

Continues working with Provost's Office towards our FY25 budget request

Communication and Academic Programs

Revamped Masters Program advertising, SEO, and web design

Program reels have received 10K views

New program videos have had over 2K views

Web pages have seen an 8% increase in views

"[This has been a] wonderful exercise."

Payroll

Processed 236 hourly students and 127 graduate TAs.

This has been a "heavy lift."

Academic Programs

Assigned 180 undergraduate and graduate course sections to 118 instructors for Spring 2024

Shifted us substantially to in-person and blended modality for our College Park undergraduate course sections

About 50-60% course sections are in-person

About 30-45% are blended/hybrid

Total in-person and blended are about 90-95% of classes (we had previously "stuck out like a sore thumb" for completely online courses to the President and Provost)

About 4-8% of classes are synchronous online
About 1-2% of classes are asynchronous online

Development

Raised nearly 500K so far, 2/3 of the way to the goal

Focused on corporate partnerships

Closed a gift to support undergraduate research

Next Dean's lecture—March 5, Scott Nash, the Founder/CEO of MOM's Organic Market (sign up [here](#)).

The next lecture will be next month on sports analytics.

Planning the alumni of the year event on April 19: Denise Davis, Wilda Logan, Gabriel Cruz are the alumni.

Setting up for Giving Day on March 6, including the David Baugh Memorial Scholarship. (Heather Baugh is very thankful.)

UMD, INFO, and AI

Several UMD marquee AI activities—President and Provost are both very interested

[NSF National Institute for Trustworthy AI in Law & Society](#) (TRAILS) (Katie Shilton, Co-PI)

[UMD Grand Challenge Values Centered AI](#) (Vanessa Frías-Martínez; Katie-Shilton, Co-PIs)

[UMIACS Center for Machine Learning](#)

[Artificial Intelligence & Autonomy for MultiAgent Systems \(ArtiAMAS\)](#) ARL cooperative agreement

INFO is involved in all except UMIACS.

INFO faculty are involved in:

Computational Linguistics and Information Processing Lab (CLIPS)

NSF Convergence Accelerator Mid-Atlantic Food Resiliency Network (Vanessa Frías-Martínez, PI)

Center for AI, Data and Conflict

Human-Agent Teaming on Intelligent Tasks: ARL (Susannah Paletz)

Our college has an important role vis-à-vis AI. The question of what is AI is itself interesting—Keith Marzullo tries to use a revised framing of David E. Culler's (Berkeley)—**core** (technology and methods); **connections** (engaging domain problems); and **context** (human aspects and implications); here we are “pivotal.” People only tend to think about the core.

What is AI?

Core: the technology and methods that expand what is technically possible and open up new opportunities for multidisciplinary approaches.

Connections: the interdisciplinary research of engaging domain problems using core technologies and methods.

Context: the human aspects and implications of the development and use of technology and methods. This includes the values and ethics that drive technological and research innovation, the policy and legal aspects that enable and constrain innovation, the business aspects of technology diffusion, and the educational innovation needed to create a society informed about AI.



Observe the Gartner cycle—innovation trigger, peak of inflated expectations (going off the cliff), trough of disillusionment, slope of enlightenment, finally, the plateau of productivity. Presently, autonomous vehicles seem to be in the trough of disillusionment (media report of deaths) and may be emerging from it. Generative AI is at the peak of inflated expectations right now—which seems like a “correct” placement. (It is important to note that people mean different things when talking about AI, even if generative AI generates most of the hype.)

We have five themes—connections and context matter a lot.

Connecting AI, data, and people to build a better world

Ensuring that AI can be trusted to positively transform society, meet human needs, and respect societal values

Partnering with both the public and private sectors to promote human values centered AI

Developing tech-savvy, ethically grounded information professionals who are fearless about AI

Empowering fearless Terps who are ethically savvy and technically grounded about AI, fostering an AI-ready workforce and citizenry

Let us know about your AI related work.

Corporate relations

Public sector: Local, State and Federal government, information institutions.

Private sector: Not for profit—ALA (the state library association coming here in March), Mellon Foundation, American Federation of the Blind

For profit: Adobe, Google, Meta, PWC

Why the for-profit sector?

Our graduates get opportunities

Our partners inform us about the adequacy of our academic programs (e.g., PWC has emphasized knowledge graphs)

The relationships strengthen the impact of our research

We are working to build these ties in part because we need to survive. Further, we need to educate others about INFO science as a major.

The starting salaries of INFO students are the same as engineering.

David Loshin—Director of External Relations

TJ Rainsford—Director of the iConsultancy

Kevin Kenneally—(embedded) Program Director, UCC

Nancy Murray—Development

The Dean's Commission on the iConsultancy has made several excellent suggestions on next steps. iLead members will help develop ways for outside stakeholders—private and public sector—to work more closely with our programs. (An industrial advisory board for INFO science will likely be formed.)

We welcome ideas and suggestions.

Renaming to the College of Information

Why not “Studies?” “We do more than study” –we are the “everything bagel” (Paul Jaeger)

We have a white paper—we will be taking it to Academic Programs Advisory Committee (2/28)

The process will look like this:

Socializing

Socialize with both internal and external stakeholders

Socialize with Provost (+ Provost socialize with APAC 2/28)

Socialize with the other deans

Review Process

Submit proposal to Division of Academic Affairs 2/1

Proposal reviewed by Senate PCC 3/1

Senate votes on proposal 4/3 or 4/23

President approves name change and notifies USM Chancellor 6/1

Launch

Digital, print, physical transition August 2024

Public event + storytelling campaign Fall 2024

This is an opportunity to tell our story to our students and their families, secondary education, and local, state, and federal governments. We welcome both ideas and help.

“You can still use the lingo of ‘iSchool.’”

Q&A:

Q: What about NFTs? How does our leadership think about matching the speed of the stock market—the bubble’s going to burst before we build new buildings?

A: With AI, it is a continuation of the energy from data science (5 years ago) and “computation” (10 years ago), so this is part of a longer trend, rather than something that will burst. Universities are not agile, it is true, and we are struggling to see how to do this—all the institutes and schools are ways that universities are using to try to get their arms around it. We are going to have to do *something*. We will hopefully figure out a way for computation to be throughout the university; we represent the human part of it to show that core is not the only part.

Q: What will the DEI coordinator do?

A: We’ve gone around a loop on this. We thought about a staff member and then a faculty member who would rotate. It is its own entity so that DEI principles are throughout the college. The director will do strategic leadership and trainings and curriculum work and anti-racist teaching seminars, becoming a subject matter expert. The coordinator will be staff support.

We would like to give out the Partridge Award again, we are figuring that out.

Q: For the call for data, is it for data science or AI?

A: Both.

- Dean’s Student Advisory Council [Jason Baron, Wayne Lutters]

We are growing up—the undergraduate programs are approaching their ten year anniversary.

The DSAC was established to facilitate direct communication with the dean—to be a diverse group of INFO undergraduate students who meet with Dean Marzullo to discuss the INFO College’s culture and climate (and collaborate on initiatives), and finally, provide the dean with the opportunity to solicit advice and perspectives from undergraduate students.

DSAC is meant to

Gather feedback from its own members and the broader student body, for the purpose of advocating for undergraduate student interests and concerns in college decision-making.

Propose innovative changes to improve education quality and student life within the college.

Cultivate a greater sense of community among undergraduate students through organizing events and initiatives to enrich the student experience

“We needed the right people.” There was an application process that yielded 30 applicants.

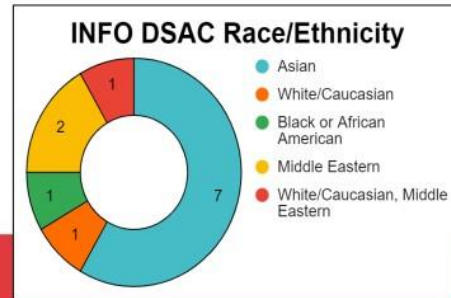
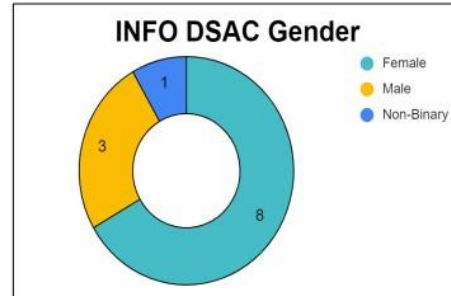
The Council is composed of 12 undergraduates:

INFO DSAC - Representation

Initial semester: Fall 2023

Includes 12 Undergraduates:

- InfoSci College Park – 5 students
- InfoSci Shady Grove – 3 students
- Social Data Science – 3 students
- Tech and Info Design – 1 student



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Spring 2024 initiatives:

Social Media Engagement: boosting online interaction by utilizing various social media platforms effectively to foster connections and dialogue among students, faculty, and the wider community. (This includes Instagram.)

Community Events & Development: nurturing a vibrant campus community through the organization of diverse events and initiatives, promoting inclusivity, and strengthening bonds among students, faculty, and staff.

Communication Enhancement: improving communication channels within the INFO College, facilitating transparent and efficient information exchange, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that everyone feels heard and valued.

Enhancing Career Clarity: providing students with clearer pathways to career development by offering resources, workshops, and mentorship opportunities, empowering them to make informed decisions about their future professional endeavors.

This is an education for the students, so we connect students with staff and faculty, so the students learn about how, say, communications works in a university school. They've had a chance to meet with several figures.

The students meet weekly on Friday from 5:30-7.

Q: What about Graduate students?

A: That's the next step.

Q: Are they a club?

A: They are a scrappy, resourceful group, but even if they want to become a club to ask the campus for funds, it should not be a club. It can spin off and start student clubs.

Q: How to measure community engagement?

A: We will have an assessment at the end of the semester. The Spring is a “d0-it” period so nothing is quite in place other than the social media.

This will help develop student leaders to learn leadership.

Q: What sorts of recommendations have been

- External Relations [David Loshin]

“External relations” is about establishing and sustaining relationships outside the INFO or UMD ecosystem for mutual benefits. Synergy!

This can include public sector, private sector, non-profits, industry associations, schools, media channels, alumni, community organizations. For instance, the Governor’s Office for External Affairs said their biggest challenge was data; we have eight iConsultancy projects. We are talking to a DC museum that is interested in AI for their catalogues. Professor Loshin has reached out to Women & Data to try to establish a campus club to participate in a national network. “They are thirsty for content on AI.”

Students benefit by learning about different industries and companies, the kinds of roles they can fill, organizational recruiting processes, timeframes, and by preparing to engage with potential employers. We need to have students know about companies by the second semester of their sophomore years for recruiting.

Organizations benefit by having a greater awareness of what students learn at the INFO College and grasping the distinctions between INFO and CS and Engineering and the Smith School of Business. They can provide insights as to emerging needs that can then inform our curricula, supporting their own talent development goals. (For instance, they can tell us if “iSchool” is legible.)

Faculty and Staff benefit by being better able to assist students in career visioning. These relationships will present increased opportunities for experiential learning (capstones and projects). Faculty and staff can also find opportunities to share research and influence corporate behaviors. (Nancy Murray is very important here.)

Capital One Tech Incubator (Behind the Hotel)

2/20/24

3:30

Panels: What are we exploring at the INFO College? (e.g., including trustworthy AI)

What are our Students Learning? (Representatives from each academic program will introduce their curricula and learning objectives. There will be discussion of information professionals as mediators and how our students are trained to take leadership roles.)

Networking and Conversations

- Election for TTK Faculty Representative to University Senate

Voting for Victoria Van Hying

Results: 62-1-1

- CAC College Advisory Council Representative

Faculty Position

Tammy Clegg (56-24)

Amelia Gibson (11)

Susannah Paletz (7)

Staff

Craig Taylor (28)

Kyren Richardson (15)

Jacob Davidson (9)

- Belonging and Community at UMD Survey [Ron Padron]

The Belonging and Community at UMD survey will measure belonging and the experiences of students, staff and faculty who live, work and learn at UMD. The results will inform the creation of an action plan designed to improve belonging at UMD. Belonging is important for individual and community well-being, for personal, academic and professional success, and for ensuring everyone in the UMD community can thrive.

The survey will cover demographic information, personal experiences, workplace climate, and perceptions of campus climate (e.g., “I feel valued by instructors in the classroom” or “I feel valued by my supervisor.”).

Questions will vary according to position. Participant confidentiality shall be maintained.

Rankin Climate, an external vendor, was selected. Other than one question about position at the university, any question can be skipped. Responses will not be reported for groups of fewer than five individuals; any identifiable information reported in comments will be redacted. No information already protected through regulation or policy will be requested.

There are student incentives, and faculty can help a campus charity.

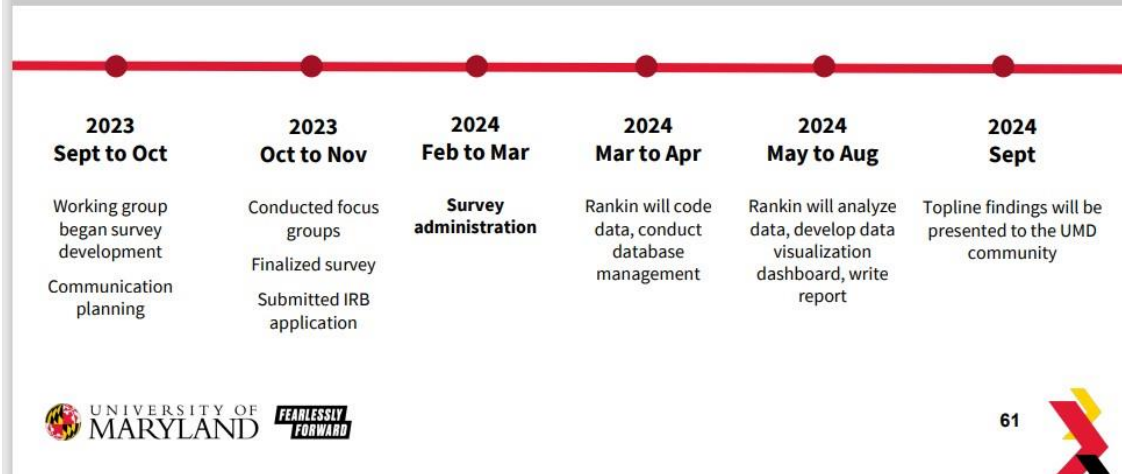
Week of February 5—survey announced; website launched.

February 28—faculty, staff, and students will receive an email invitation from the President to take the survey.

March 15—survey closes.

See the timeline:

Survey Timeline



Various language options will be offered for the survey, including Spanish and Creole.

- Sponsored Projects [Kyrán Richardson]

Sponsored Projects

Kyrán Richardson	Assistant Director of Sponsored Projects
Jackie Armstrong	Business Manager
Maura Matvey	Business Manager
Kourtney Roussey	Business Manager

Pre Award :



- Submit [Proposal Request Form](#) with proposal details (or email your business manager) *as soon as you start thinking about submitting*
- Collaborative and communicative proposal creation process
- Office of Research Administration requests 6 business days before sponsor deadline. *ORA will submit on our behalf to sponsor*

Post Award :



- Budget trackers for each award/non sponsored account (i.e. start up)
- Updated monthly, including spending projections
- Quarterly Budget meetings
- Review of financial portfolio
- Appointment updates

Note: There is a proposal request form.

ORA does require us to give them six business days before the sponsor deadline to review proposals. Sponsored Projects can always loop you in the right direction.

- Giving Day [Katie Ambacher]

Giving Day is March 6. 11am-1pm—best time to give. Contact [Katie Ambacher](#) if interested.

Announcements

APT is pushed back to 1:30.

Jeff Waters:

Instructional support that is not meeting expectations—let Jeff and Chris Beatty know, and don't wait until April to let them know about erroneous timesheets. It is then too late for interventions.

Victoria Van Hying:

Frederick Douglass Day 2/14, transcribathon at the [Collaboratory](#). They are working with a lot of groups as part of a larger Black History Month celebration.

Nancy Murray:

Giving Day. More incentives—see the [prizes](#). We should win some/all.

Ron Padron:

Academic programs. If you have students (undergraduate or graduate) who are struggling and that you are concerned about, reach out to Ron or Fabian or through the iCare form. Soon is better to avoid last minute “calamitous” outcomes. “It's better to ask than to risk the alternative.”

Daniel Greene:

VP of the faculty union. The lobbying campaign begins next week. Wednesday—lobbying day rally in Annapolis with faculty and graduate students. Bus transportation from lot 1 will leave at 9am with swag. You should meet with legislators. AFT has an event the next week at 2pm. Feel free to talk to Dan.

Preeti Lakhole:

Academic Data requests via form —PL will send out an email.

The MLIS program is delighted to host [Meg Medina for the Macleod Lecture Series](#) on February 27:

“Advocating for Books, Children, and Imagination in a Time of Division.” It might occur in this room. She will attend a reception and book signing.

Jesse Klein: [Love Data Week](#)—share with students.

Adjourned.