

Ideans Conference Call Notes

Thursday, July 31, 2008

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. (Central time)

Participants: Harry Bruce, Andrew Dillon, Ron Larsen, Deborah Richardson, Anna Lee Saxenian, Jorge Schment, Robert Schnabel, John Unsworth

- A. Procedural items - It was agreed that as a matter of standard operating procedure with respect to the group's decision-making process, items may be introduced for discussion on either the iDeans mail list or at the conference calls; votes will be called on the list with a summary of the issue. No voting period will exceed two weeks in duration, and silence will be interpreted as assent.
- B. Membership - Singapore Management University (Steven Miller) and Carnegie Mellon (Mark Wessel) are new members of the iDeans group. Membership discussions with Michael Seadle at Humboldt's Institute of Library and Information Science, and Chuanfu Chen, Dean of the School of Information Management at Wuhan University are on-going; colleagues at the University of Sheffield have declined membership.

Questions about annual membership fees were brought forward. Past use of fees (e.g., iDeans marketing) and future use of fees (e.g., administrative support for the iDeans, and content development) were cited, as was the concept of fee differentials, and initial versus renewal memberships. Clarification about the fee base, and use of fees to support the annual iConference was requested. It was agreed that the discussion will continue on-line.

- C. Conferences and Meetings - The topic of iConference planning was tabled for future agenda consideration. The group agreed by consensus that a written understanding of conference planning and support expectations is desirable.
- D. General Discussion
- A. A number of research opportunities were identified. Dean Schnabel discussed Health Informatics and the Computing Community Consortium projects (more information is available at <http://www.cra.org/>), which were also a topic at the recent Snowbird workshop. He has also agreed to initiate discussions with Microsoft. Additional information will be shared with both the iDeans group and the IT Deans. Participation and input from the iDeans is welcome. Possible collaboration with HCI was also noted. Dean Schnabel will provide a summary of past conversations and will also extend an invitation to participate to the iDeans mail list. In the meanwhile those who are interested may contact Dean Schnabel directly. The iDeans were asked to provide, via the group mail list, information about related, pertinent research underway at their schools.
- B. Discussion of core faculty research at iDean schools was tabled for a future agenda.
- C. Possible books on iSchools and the profession were identified including:
1. A discussion with MIT Press which has originated by Dean von Dran, and recently rekindled by Dean Larsen, but is yet unresolved. Dean Larsen will recirculate the MIT proposal and framework to the iDeans mail list.
 2. A discussion between Deans Bruce and Larsen and Bruce Dearstein(?) at Information Today, which is on-going.
 3. A third book proposal about iSchools
 4. An article for the LIS Encyclopedia (Marcia Bates). This is a 3,000-6,000 word article with an October 1, 2008 deadline. Should Toni Carbo agree to write the article, Dean Dillon has agreed to assist the effort. Dean Unsworth agreed to contact Dean Liddy to determine whether or not any draft documentation is available. It was the consensus of the group that the article be written in memory of Ray von Dran.

In thinking about book deals, questions to discuss are: how much we wish to undertake, who is our intended audience, a group strategy for our desired level of commitment, how we relate to the IT Deans and the heritage we share, what is our shared sense of mission, how to protect ourselves from over-representing the iDeans/iSchools, etc. Some of these topics will be explored further during future iDeans conference calls.

- D. Discussion of faculty recruiting efforts was cut short due to time constraints. Briefly, both junior and senior hires are being made, and the areas of information services, cyber scholarship, computer science, and informatics were noted. It was agreed that the discussion would continue on-line.

The next bimonthly teleconference call will be Thursday, 9/25/08, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. (Central time).
The call-in number is 877-607-8979.

Notes recorded by Dorlene Clark