

## Notes from iDeans meeting Sept. 25, 2008

Present: John Unsworth, Bobby Schnabel, David Fenske, Martha Pollack, Jens-Erik Mai, Anna Lee Saxenian, Harry Bruce, Ron Larsen, Aimee Dorr, Jorge Reina Schment, Maeve Reilly. Liz Liddy joined while in progress.

### **iSchools Conference**

John Unsworth gave a brief update on iSchools conference planning. He has updated software for the conference registration. Wanda Monroe at UNC and Maeve Reilly are working on getting materials in place on web site. There have been a few conference calls where they have been discussing keynote speaker, programming, etc.

Calls for papers/presenters/reviewers are going out.

### **iSchools Communications**

Maeve Reilly provided update on her activities:

- updating the current site, while investigating CMS and design for the next iteration of the site. Her plan is to come up with a prototype that communicators at the schools can test.
- at options for an “experts database” and working with a local company, who will submit a proposal soon.
- with ALISE data—seven of the iSchools have submitted data that has been formatted. She will give to communicators to make sure that format is useful for them.
- Comment from David: Drexel has recently updated their ALISE data. Need to make sure that it matches what is currently in iSchools database.
- with Ron Larsen on the iSchools article for the encyclopedia and is working with UNC on iSchools conference materials for the web site. Materials should be going out to schools soon and be posted on the web site in the next few days.

Comment that while new site is being developed old site should be updated with news and graphics. Maeve was asked for a timeline and plans to get the new site up before the next iSchools conference, hopefully before the end of the year.

### **Budget**

David Fenske presented budget information in Larry Dennis’ absence. The invoices are going out soon and currently there is \$183,880.83 in the iSchools account.

### **Faculty research**

John suggested that associate deans need to get speaking to one another for useful cross-school engagement.

## Hiring plans

- **David Fenske at Drexel:** Hiring five tenure track, unknown non-tenure. Interests depend on the best person. Three research interests at the school are: social computing, HDI and LIS, which they are having trouble finding faculty for. Fills the vacancy from a general pool.
- **Aimee Dorr at UCLA:** big budget cuts in California. No new searches this year. Added an endowed chair in the last year.
- **Anna Saxenian at Berkely:** No new searches at Berkeley. Only 25 campus-wide searches. Added three faculty last year. When replacing folks, figures out what is needed.
- **Martha Pollack at Michigan:** Tries to find people who are working with a group that will make us best in a particular area. Looking for tenure stream, but looking at clinical/practice professors, especially. PhDs in LIS that can compete in research areas.
- **Ron Larsen at Pitt:** Five searches—one an endowed chair. Is looking for the “best athlete.” Also a cyberscholar position. Two others: info retrieval and practice professor—a heavy teaching load in LIS program. When replacing folks, figures out what is needed.
- **Bobby Schnabel at Indiana:** Questioned “Best athlete?” Does the opposite. CS and Informatics—did best available, is now refocusing on areas where he anticipates enrollment growth and targets one to two areas that are new or growth areas with need.
- **John Unsworth at Illinois:** is looking in specific areas: HCI and data intensive Tries to find great people in any area—is hiring two junior faculty. Looking for “more depth on the bench.” Discussed Faculty Excellence hires (full profs, sometimes associate level) who will help transform the school/campus. Target of Opportunity hires—mainly minority hires. When replacing folks, figures out what is needed. Depends on curricular needs and advising commitments. Had to do a search for children’s library and youth services because there was a large enrollment in that program.
- **Harry Bruce at Washington:** current hiring freeze. Looks for “opportunity for invention.” Has a continuing search for senior faculty. Is unwilling for sr. position to go to any one area. The three strengths at Washington: ACI, Info management and LIS—looking for someone who is a leader and is strong in one area. Has to do search in child and youth services—open but targeted. When replacing folks, figures out what is needed.

- **Jorge Reina Schment at Rutgers:** replacement hire puts you in a trap unless there is a reason to keep you there. Tries to consolidate resources. Complements what he already has and then reaches out into the university. Wants to check out health/medical connections with a program in communications. Looking at social media (in particular mobile communication/psycho-social factors) Looks to humanities-oriented folks – a common problem space.
- **Liz Liddy at Syracuse:** two new professors of practice (asst prof of LIS, information management and security) hired. Has eight other professors of practice. Part of mission as professional school—need to provide students with instruction by those with current real world experience. Hired 1 tenure track faculty, looking to hire 3 more. Best athlete model in broadly defined areas of research focus.

### **Discussion about hiring professors of practice**

- **Syracuse:** 2 professors of practice. They receive 3-year contracts, non-competitive salaries. 75% teaching (3/3), 25% service
- **Drexel:** can create full-time at will. 1 new hire. Salary competitive with tenure track. 9-12 month contracts
- **Berkeley:** adjunct lecturers—tend to be excellent in practice, but has to pay for excellence. Values practitioner perspective

### **Discussion of students perception of teaching by practitioners.**

Do they feel it's 2<sup>nd</sup> rate?

- **Syracuse:** students also get classes from tenure-track faculty. Professors of practice are not tenure-track, but regarded as full members of Faculty of One Across campus, they have been a model for other depts. Hopes to hire less adjuncts
- **Toronto:** just hired 4 lecturers. Tenure track faculty look at lecturers as 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens. After 5 years, senior lecturers become permanent. Dilemma for dean: permanent practitioner loses contact with field
- **Drexel:** Got away from lecturers—now called “teaching faculty.” No promotion and tenure, but there is a promotion process. Not regarded as 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens. Goal: to have 65% of courses taught by full-time fac (tenured and non-tenured). More difficult in areas of recent growth
- **Illinois:** staff voted against staff not devoted to research. Have adjuncts who have taught several times. Some practice professors who teach part-time. MA students gravitate to practice profs—less theoretically oriented. Encourages students to get to know full-time faculty

- **Berkeley:** works to integrate practice profs. Some are 25, 50, 100%. 50%-appt. come to meetings, included in decision making
- **Washington:** seniors lectures—highly regarded, full voting rights, integrated into school. Across the university, lecturing faculty regarded differently

## **Discussion of areas of research focus**

**Illinois:** children's lit

Community informatics

Informatics—science/scholarship in humanities

HCI

Information history—economics and policy

**Syracuse:** New minor in global enterprise technologies (financial industry)

Collaborative technologies: Open-source software development

Interdisciplinary: sports management

MIS

LIS (particularly cyber-infrastructure)

**Drexel:** clusters—anyone faculty member can be a member of 3 different ones

AI

Biomedical

Digital libraries

ACI

CSL

SCW

Info retrieval

Healthcare informatics

Software engineering

Systems analysis—design and teaching

**UCLA:** 3 main areas: archival, LIS, informatics

Research: small group working on library history and historical figures

Library management

Archival studies—digitization and digital archiving

**PITT:** user modeling

Data visualization (small mobile devices)

Work on spatial info

Security of communications

**Toronto:** recently expanded and reorganized degrees

Info studies includes archives and record management, knowledge and info management, systems media and design, LIS, critical info studies

**More discussion about the iConference and thematic considerations**

**ASIST—John sending out who is going and plans**

**Recruitment**

Royal School at Copenhagen has expressed interest

North Texas very interested—attended conference last year