

iCaucus Conference Call, March 26, 2009

Noon-1 pm CENTRAL Time.

Toll free call-in number: 877-607-8979

local call-in number: 244-7532

Present (12):

Bobby Schnabel (Indiana)

John Unsworth (Illinois)

Harry Bruce (Washington)

AnnaLee Saxenian (Berkeley)

Martha Pollack (Michigan)

Liz Liddy (Syracuse)

Ron Larsen (Pitt)

Maeve Reilly (iSchools)

Aimee Dorr (UCLA)

David Fenske (Drexel)

Hank Foley (Penn State)

Jim Foley (GA Tech)

Regrets (11):

Blaise Cronin (Indiana)

Jose-Marie Griffiths (UNC)

Per Hasle (Royal Copenhagen)

Steven Miller (Singapore)

Debra Richardson (UC-Riverside)

Ramayya Krishnan (CMU)

Jenny Preece (UMD)

Andy Dillon (UT)

Larry Dennis (FSU)

Michael Seadle (Humboldt)

Seamus Ross (Toronto)

Agenda:

I. Wuhan Application

Size of iCaucus: previous limit of 25 was removed in order to expand the iSchools; we can now expand as a whole without expanding the iCaucus, since we can add iSchools as members, so there was some sentiment for bringing back the limit of 25 for iCaucus membership. That question wasn't called, but all felt that iCaucus needs to be kept at manageable size in order to facilitate meaningful discussion.

Challenges in expanding internationally:

Can we work together effectively given the logistics of international real-time collaboration? Will we have common problems and interests to discuss?

Nature of the iSchools: Can we ensure that the membership of the iCaucus consists of top-notch programs, peers; they need to be clearly not just CS or LIS; they need to be a mix.

Goals with international participation: iSchools movement needs to be global, needs to represent itself as a global phenomenon.

Wuhan: Liz recruited the application; they clearly meet our stated criteria, and we should admit them. This question was called, and there were no objections. JMU and Maeve will contact them.

Sheffield: will become an iSchools member, not iCaucus. JMU and Maeve will contact them.

Structural relationship between iSchools and iCaucus: iCaucus should include members who host regional discussions, recruit members from their regions. We support conference calls, we remain one organization, have one conference, but we have leaders of the regions represented in the iCaucus. We should communicate to Wuhan (and other international members) this expectation. Any new recruits to the iCaucus should understand the role in regional activities.

Long-term goal to have regional groupings (i.e., Europe, Asia, North America) meet regularly for discussions. iCaucus could coordinate regional organizations, set up ways for them to communicate.

II. iDeans phone conferences

As soon as we have a reasonable number of regular (non-iCaucus) members, we need to establish regular (once a semester?) conference calls for deans of all iSchools, including any on the iCaucus who wish to participate.

Maeve is working on recruiting schools that identify themselves as iSchools to join the iSchools. They will self-nominate, and send documentation to Maeve. If she has questions or concerns, she will go to iCaucus. Schools admitted will be permitted to add information about school to iSchools.org (per charter) and be added to mailing listservs (research and academic deans, communicators, development, administrative assistants). iDeans listserv will remain for only iCaucus deans. iSchools deans listserv might include iCaucus deans, at least initially.

III. 2010 iConference planning committee

Local arrangements committee chaired by idean hosting the conference; program committee should include faculty from the host school, faculty from next year's host, faculty from other iSchools. Doctoral students should be integrated into both local arrangements and program committee.

John will be sending a note out to iDeans for recommendations of faculty and doctoral students who would be willing to serve on program committee. Please send him names in the next couple of weeks.

IV. Additional

John will be going to China this summer. Has requested funds from iCaucus for domestic travel from Beijing to Wuhan. Those on the call assented; the same request will be submitted to the list.