

## iDeans Conference Call Meeting

September 30, 2010

### Minutes

**Attendees:** Harry Bruce, John Unsworth, Michael Seadle, Ron Larsen, Gary Marchionini, Ramayya Krishnan, Ron Larsen, Liz Liddy, Andrew Sears, Aimee Dorr, Hal Stern, Philippa Levy, Herman Totten, Jeff MacKie-Mason, David Fenske,

#### Agenda

1. Vision statement - feedback and discussion - Harry Bruce (15 mins)
2. Membership committee report - Michael Seadle (15 mins)
3. Succession planning - David Fenske (20 mins)
4. iconference update - Clark Heideger (5 mins)
5. Local challenges, updates (5 mins) Thanks,

Minutes *(Please note: attributed conversation is not verbatim, and therefore are not quotes. Names are noted only to get a sense of who contributed and approximately what they said.)*

1. Vision statement - feedback and discussion - Harry Bruce (15 mins)  
Which of these statements do you prefer, and why? Which ones can you live with?  
We got rid of the present tense version, because we felt we needed to be more forward thinking in a vision statement.
  - David: happy with any version we agree on.
  - Herman: ditto – particularly like #2, but could live with all three.
  - Liz: #2 – in the next to last line, the word “hiring” sounds odd...
  - Michael: how about using “personnel” instead?
  - Gary - #2 speaks to our movement the best
  - Ramayya - #2
  - Andrew - #2
  - Michael – prefer #2, but could live with any.
  - David – I think it’s #2! Let’s move on!
  - Aimee – not enthusiastic about any of them. Particularly the visibility & influence being the leading sentence –these themes should come out through what we do.
  - Hal Stern, UC Irvine – slight preference for #3, especially didn’t like the insertion of humans in #1, but happy with any of them.

Harry suggests that we do a doodle poll of these three, and have the deans vote for their preference, and then what they can live with. Can you all abide by this? Do we need it to be anonymous? No need for anonymity, can abide by the end result.

## 2. Membership committee report - Michael Seadle (15 mins)

Emphasize the three key criteria:

1. The School must have a PhD program
2. Within North America the School's head must be Dean who reports to a Provost/President. In other parts of the world, a determination will be based on local circumstances, such as the reporting structure within the country and within the institution.
3. The School must have external research expenditures and must provide details of their research activity. We chose deliberately not to set a dollar figure.

Are these three criteria acceptable? These are based on criteria already in use for the iCaucus, which state that there must be \$1M in research expenditures. We purposefully did not include a number here; this is for iSchool membership.

Discussion (these are not quotes):

- Ramayya: is this highly correlated with the PhD program?
- Michael: #3 is really explaining whether there is serious research going on. #1 & #3 work together.
- Aimee: fine criteria, but it would be helpful for potential candidates to know what we're looking for in #3. Evidence of ongoing engagement and success in obtaining external funds for research at a level that suggests that it wasn't small, or one person, etc.
- David: might consider that maybe 25% of faculty ought to have some level of external research funds to show some breadth, and this would be a low threshold. I like the emphasis on external funding without naming agencies.
- Aimee: use "sizable proportion" – not using numbers is important.
- Andrew: #2 – my group faces that; this criteria went away at some point, and that's when we joined. There are some groups that are of a size and breadth and satisfy the other criteria.
- David: in North America "should normally" be a dean who reports to... instead of "must be" in #2 for reporting to the Provost.
- David: Is the issue of educational breadth as well important? We also intend that iSchools have a broad educational mission as well, but defining broad is important. To make sure that it's not a single, narrow masters degree.
- Ramayya: I agree with the broad educational idea.
- Aimee: do we have to be careful about this; there might be breadth, but with a very small overlap only.
- Michael: we might not be able to work out language for broad educational goals here, but I'd like to hear if there is someone who feels that we should not have that. (no responses) So, yes, we'll formulate that criterion. Do we need a Doodle poll on the criteria? (Yes responses) Okay, we'll work out specific language and then have a Doodle poll for this.
- We have two pending requests for membership:
  - TENNESSEE: The School of Information Sciences has a PhD Program and significant research activity, but its head is not a dean. We recommend that the whole College of Communication & Information apply.

- Anyone feel that this is not a good idea?
- Liz: how small is the information science portion of that college?
- Harry: it looks a lot like some other schools in the caucus, but the leader is not the dean.
- Michael: should we come back with more information?
- Liz: I agree with the committee's recommendation.
- Michael: anyone not agree? (no one disagreed) *Michael will ask them to have the whole college apply.*
- Michael: Now for Dublin.
  - DUBLIN (University College Dublin): The School of Information and Library Studies has a PhD program and significant research activity. Its head appears to have a position with sufficient independence to qualify. We recommend that UCD be accepted to membership at the iSchool level.
  - Michael: any concerns about UCD joining?
- Gary: don't know much about it, how does it compare with Tennessee?
- Michael: It has quite a good reputation in the EU.
- Harry: they addressed the degree of independence well in the application.
- Those present had no concerns about admitting UCD – *Michael will notify them.*

### 3. Succession planning - David Fenske (20 mins)

People who come to my age worry about succession management... I'd like to start an initial conversation about how others might feel about this. Two perspectives: 1) it's an institutional concern, a conversation with the administration or senior leadership in the college. 2) However, I'd like to concentrate on professional succession management.

John King talked at some length on this issue – who will succeed us? Could we do a better job of preparing iDeans? I send promising professionals to HERS, an organization which focuses on women in leadership positions: gives training on things like budgeting, people management, etc. I send folks to fundraising school, too. I'd like eventually propose something based on what we share today for a future meeting.

- Hal: not sure what's distinctive about our group. It's incumbent upon deans to give opportunities to associate deans and chairs. How is it different for iDeans?
- David: yes there are institutional mechanisms that deal with this problem. Would it be a good idea for an associate dean to have some experience at another iSchool? To share experiences like strategic planning, to learn experiences and metrics of that institution? This would broaden their experiences and prepare them for becoming a better iDean someplace.
- John U: there are two sides to this: cultivating associate deans is not very different from other schools. Changing places physically would be difficult to arrange, but perhaps we could get them to talk more openly and more often and to share practices, etc. Deans often come from outside our schools, not from inside. Part of succession planning is to attract successful people from other disciplines.
- Jeff: not convinced that we've identified a problem that needs to be solved by the iCaucus. Certainly broadening the experience of our associate deans is always a good idea, even if they never become deans. What succession planning or training at our level with our scarce resources

can we do, when others in our universities (our provost, for instance) already do a good job at this.

- Harry: we are inherently an interdisciplinary school; we have a deeper understanding of scholarly practice, and our success depends upon sponsoring that interdisciplinary community. Also, what we want to do as a caucus is to encourage and provide opportunities for the best of our leaders to aspire to leadership positions. Often professors see academic leadership as a negative, and we need to work on this.
- David: what most deans don't do, we're expected to do, because we're an iSchool. First a provost is interested in this, my experience is mostly an internship in the provost's office, which tends to lead to being a vice provost, and not a dean. That was intended to broaden participation. There is an investment on the part of the provost's office. If we're going to award an internship to someone, why not pay their salary, and place them in another iSchool? There are ancillary expenses that come with this kind of move, but the caucus could cover this, or from grant funds.
- Harry: as a caucus, we could nurture our associate deans or department chairs in ways that are particularly unique to the iSchool movement. I'll think about ways we can continue this conversation later (time is out now).

#### 4. iConference update - Clark Heideger (5 mins)

- Did very well with submissions – received almost 300 total papers and posters – and they are currently in review. They'll be notified on November 1 of acceptance/denial, and that is also the date when registration opens.
- We also received NSF funding for the Doctoral colloquium, and we're getting lots of submissions.
- Jeff: when are the iDeans meeting? On the Friday afternoon of that week.
- Advance registration pages will be live soon.
- There will be a call for proposals to be a host of 2013, and the deans who've hosted the last 2, plus the next one [UIUC (Unsworth), UW (Bruce), Toronto (Ross)] will review these proposals and make a recommendation to the Caucus on the host site for 2013.

#### 5. Local challenges, updates (5 mins)

- John: got an invitation to write for a trade blog run by IBM, and I considered this something that might be a place where the iSchools might want to be represented. If there is any interest, I can send this information out... Hearing none, I'll not send that out.
- David: asked Ron about any compensation for any iSchool Deans. Ron came up with a very tactical idea – have us all write down our salaries without place or name, and drop it anonymously into a box, so that we'd have an idea about the range. We could do this at the meeting at the iConference.
  - Michael: Do you want international? The salary would vary quite a lot depending on the exchange rate.)
  - Liz – has looked at faculty salaries at AAU data and it's important to indicate public or private.

**iCaucus Vision Statements**

**Please read these three statements and then vote.**

**Version 1**

The iSchool Caucus seeks to maximize the visibility and influence of its member schools, and their interdisciplinary approaches to harnessing the power of information and technology to maximize the potential of humans. We envision a future in which the iSchool Movement has spread around the world, and the information field is widely recognized for creating innovative systems and designing information solutions that benefit individuals, organizations, and society. iSchools will be active participants in formulating information policies; organizations of all types and sizes will recruit our graduates to fill their hiring and leadership needs; and our areas of inquiry will attract strong support and have profound impacts on society.

**Version 2**

The iSchool Caucus seeks to maximize the visibility and influence of its member schools, and their interdisciplinary approaches to harnessing the power of information and technology, and maximizing the potential of humans. We envision a future in which the iSchool Movement has spread around the world, and the information field is widely recognized for creating innovative systems and designing information solutions that benefit individuals, organizations, and society. iSchools will be active participants in influencing organizations of all types and sizes that will recruit our graduates to fill their personnel and leadership needs; and our areas of inquiry will attract strong support and have profound impacts on society and on formulating policy from local to national levels.

**Version 3**

The iSchool Caucus seeks to maximize the visibility and influence of its member schools, and their interdisciplinary approaches to harnessing the power of information and related technology for enhancing the potential of humans, organizations, and society. We envision a future where the iSchool Movement has spread around the world, and where there is global recognition of an information field that generates and disseminates knowledge about information related usage, design, technology and application in ways that are deeply rooted in the context of human, organizational, and societal behavior and needs. iSchools will be active participants in influencing organizations of all types and sizes to recruit our graduates to fill their hiring and leadership needs. iSchools will also participate in public and private sector outreach to contribute to policy analysis and formation that impacts the information field, and attract strong support for our research, education and service initiatives. iSchools commit themselves to making profoundly positive impact on the lives of people and on society.

~~~~~