



COLLEGE OF INFORMATION

Date: Friday, December 5th, 2025 – 9:30am to 11:30 am

Location: Edward St. John Teaching & Learning Center, Room 2204

AGENDA

Preliminaries

- Call to order
- Review and approval of minutes from September
 - Minutes approved without correction
- Review and approval of this agenda
 - Agenda approved with corrections

Assembly Items

- Dean's Update [Doug Oard]
 - This is a difficult time for iSchools. NC-iSchool is merging with their Data Science school. They found out about this when the Provost announced it back in September. Similar situation with UT Austin. Neither of these things are individually surprising, but together they are. Independent iSchools are a vanishing breed. We have 8 degree programs, which makes us unique. We should strive to keep doing good work.
 - The BA in AI just got approved by the University senate, as did the BS in AI.
 - One risk - problems at UNC were exacerbated by leadership. Loss of confidence in the Dean by the Provost, so the Provost looked for a way to make a change that's a net benefit to the University. UT Austin had an Interim Dean, and Interim Deans are in a weak position, because you can get rid of them more easily. 2 of the 6 remaining independent iSchools have interim deans.
 - Gratitude to Faisal Quader and Galina Reitz; Faisal's company has pledged that part of their profits will go back to the Maryland Promise Program scholarship. Expresses gratitude to Faisal & Galina for supporting our school and our students.
 - Ongoing conversations with the Provost about why we have our programs set up the way they are. We are running in a deficit because the college grew very quickly. Now, in preparation for the next dean, we are trying to determine how to get us to a budget that can be managed instead of a planned deficit. Provost has asked us - do we want each of our programs to be entrepreneurial or base-funded? The one that is pretty obvious to make base-funded is the Library Science program. Base-funded programs are meant to support TTK faculty. LBSO is by far the largest of our entrepreneurial programs. If we want discretionary funds for the new dean, then we want LBSO to be entrepreneurial. If we want to have nice stable funding for as far as the eye to see, we want LBSO to be base-funded. Had a long conversation with the Provost about this, and raised an interesting question -

why didn't we hear about this before? We should have a robust discussion about where we are falling short on shared governance.

- **Question:** When is this happening? **Answer:** this will happen by the end of the academic year.
- **Question:** At what point might we consider rebasing the LBSO? Will there be a conversation about it, is there a chance it would happen? **Answer:** 3 years from now, after we make the change this year, get the new dean in, get settled, then look at rebasing every program.
- **Comment:** The negative for leaving LBSO entrepreneurial is that TTK faculty can't teach as many of those courses. It limits access for students to only certain faculty members and also raises concerns about accreditation. **Answer:** Yes, that's the trade-off.
- **Question:** Why does LBSO being entrepreneurial limit TTK faculty teaching online courses? **Answer:** The state provides funding for TTK faculty that they call "base funding" and they have a vision that TTK faculty will teach in base-funded programs.
- o We have received approval to hire 4 lecturers. Our search will focus on the following priority areas:
 - Networking, cloud computing
 - Interaction & Visual Design
 - Broaden requirements, cast a wide net - there is more talent available in the DC area now than there has been in the last few years. Requirement is that you must have teaching experience, but not necessarily higher ed teaching experience
 - Please share the invite with your network.
 - **Question:** Are there rules for hiring our own students? **Answer:** We want students to have experience more than just from here.
 - **Comment:** Please consider replacing the MLIS lost lecturer. One search, hired 2 people, 1 of them left..
- ADA Title II [Kevin Remmell]
 - o The updated ADA requirements for digital accessibility mandate that all of our digital content, services, and programs are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities by April 24, 2026.
 - o This includes all public and private content such as:
 - All online instructional content that you require students to use (ELMS/canvas content, etc).
 - Simple example - low-quality scans from 10 years ago will need to be updated
 - Use descriptive text
 - Audience-specific checklists coming Early January
 - Instructional
 - Admin & staff
 - Research
 - o Perfection is not expected by April 24, just amazing progress. Faculty can consider prioritizing their largest classes.
 - o There are a lot of INFO faculty on committees, which looks good for the Provost. Other things coming down the pipeline:

- The University will release some template-y sort of things for people who don't know where to start
 - The director of social media for the University is putting together a website on this topic
 - By mid-Jan, there should be sets of guidelines by types of content, website-guidelines, web-apps & socials guidelines, teaching materials, events & marketing. By the time we get to spring there will be more resources available, but don't wait for them.
 - **Question:** What about computational notebooks, like Google Colab or Jupyter Notebook? **Answer:** Some of these have built-in accessibility tools but feel free to reach out to Kevin
 - Note that the deadline isn't actually April - courses should be ready to go when they start in spring.
- Plan of Organization [Kate Izsak/Doug]
 - Overview of reasons for revising the Plan of Organization
 - What's next - we will ask some of you to lend a little time to pieces of the Plan. Goal is to keep the workload as minimal as possible
 - Reach out to Kate Izsak if you'd like to be involved
- INFO Professional Doctorate [Paul T. Jaeger & Beth St. Jean]
 - The ProfD program has been approved! We now have a practitioner-oriented doctoral program which focuses on real-world leadership and community engagement. We are going to start recruiting in the spring, hope to have first cohort in the fall. If anyone wants to take the program, please apply!
 - **Question:** When is this starting? **Answer:** We have (3) pilot courses running in the spring, but the first cohort will start in the fall.
 - **Question:** Will this program be entrepreneurial or base funded? **Answer:** Entrepreneurial.
- Post-Doc Introductions [Wayne Lutters & Sheena Erete]
 - Introduction of new postdocs:
 - **Celia Chen, Colton Harper, Alan Moss and Rohit Mallick**
 - We have 8 post-docs now, the most we've ever had. Sheena has put together a post-doc mentoring plan to co-create an informal community-building mentoring series. The goal is to strengthen the sense of connection and support that helps them excel in their current research and future professional roles. They decided to meet every other month through the academic year. Reach out to Sheena if you want to be involved.
- Research Support Team Updates [Polly O'Rourke]
 - IRBNet → Kualī-IRB
 - 12/20/25 - Last day for new applications in IRBNet
 - 1/5/26 - First day for new applications in Kualī-IRB
 - Between 1/5/26 and 8/31/26 - Existing IRBNet protocols can be managed in IRBNet
 - Any protocol that will be open after 8/31/26 must be transitioned to Kualī-IRB **or it will be closed.**
 - Research Security Training
 - It is a requirement from UMD for anyone involved in federally funded research - takes about an hour. <https://research.umd.edu/rso/research-security-training>
 - Conflict of Interest (COI) Disclosure:

- **EVERYONE must do this on an annual basis** - “disclose to propose” - ORA will not process your proposal if you haven’t done it. <https://research.umd.edu/coi>
- o Proposal Request Form
 - If you are thinking of submitting a proposal for external research funding, please fill out the Proposal Request Form
<https://forms.ischool.umd.edu/proposal-request-form/>
- o **Question:** Is there any help available to help with transitioning to the new system?
Answer: Yes, we’ll be meeting with all PIs to help with this
- Senate Election Overview [Polly O’Rourke]
 - o University Senate meets once a month, there are materials to read to prepare that take 1-2 hours. If anyone has new business, you would present it on their behalf and work with them to figure out what that is
- Election: **UMD Senate - PTK Faculty**
 - **Jessica Grimmer - 66 votes**
 - Polly O’Rourke - 4 votes
 - Emily Dacquist - 2 votes
 - Vedat Diker - 1 vote
 - Stacy Surla - 1 vote
 - Anat Szendro-Sevilla - 1 vote
 - Susan Winter - 1 vote
- o Jessica’s term will begin in August and run for a period of 3 years
- Academic Programs [Vedat Diker]
 - o If you are FT PTK faculty, you must be involved in a Program Support committee.
 - o Need reviewers for candidates for MPower Early Scholars Investment Fund applications
 - PhD student applications
 - Postdoc applications
 - o Operation More Cowbell
 - Student course experience feedback surveys are open and will stay open until Sat., Dec. 13. Encourage your students to fill them out. You, too, could win a cowbell award.
 - University-wide #s are quite low, so we are trying to increase our percentage within the college
 - Presentation of Spring 2025 Cowbell awards
 - o **Comment:** Provost asked the student advisory committee, do you want us to get rid of these if people aren’t going to fill them out? The answer was - instructors should explain how this benefits them - if you say, “I am doing this thing because I saw it in course evals” the response rate doubles.

Announcements

- Maryland Day [Sarah Grun]
 - o Saturday, April 25, 2026, 10am-4pm. Volunteers will be needed 8am-5:30pm in shifts. We need your event proposals, we must submit them in early Jan so the University knows what we will be hosting.
 - o Submit your proposals here: <https://go.umd.edu/INFOMDDay2026>
- Community Engagement [Tammy Clegg & Michelle Sawwan]

- o General Body Meeting & Cookie Swap for United Academics at Maryland on Fri., 12/12
2-4pm in HBK 0301
- Open Announcements
 - o **Question:** The vast majority of our instructional support has been moved away from TAs and are hourly. Are there any plans to recognize or award the hourly members of teams?
Answer: Good point, we'll look into that.
 - o Dr. Neil Dhingra just successfully defended his dissertation and is now a doctor!
 - o Diana: 60th anniversary of the college. Diana's students have been working on a small exhibit in the lobby of Hornbake, will be ready for viewing in January.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn. Accepted.

iSchool Monthly Lunch: 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in Hornbake Room 0300, iSchool Commons