



COLLEGE OF INFORMATION

Date: Friday, February 6th, 2026 – 9:30am to 11:30 am

Location: [Edward St. John Teaching & Learning Center, Room 2208](#)

AGENDA

Preliminaries

- Call to order
- Review and approval of minutes from December
 - Minutes approved without correction
- Review and approval of this agenda
 - Agenda approved with correction - Development Updates will be moved to March

Assembly Items

- Dean's Update [Doug Oard]
 - Classes - 1st week of the semester was entirely online and asynchronous. We learned during covid that during disruptive times, our students have very different experiences than we do, and asynchronous learning makes more sense. Thanks for everything you have done to adjust, given the weather and conditions. Might not be the last weather disruption this semester; use this opportunity to help others think about how to restructure your classes.
 - AV Williams is struggling. It is an old facility. If you are freezing in AV Williams, come visit Patuxtent. Kevin has been sending out messages on a regular basis - if you don't hear from him, you should come in. Doing our best to get AV Williams heated. Facilities prioritizing more urgent projects.
 - Leadership - on July 1, we'll have a new dean. The Provost's office is running the search. There's a search committee, and they select candidates to come to campus, and then dissolve. The Provost then decides which candidates will come to campus; goal is to get candidates here before spring break. The candidates will give public talks, we are highly encouraged to attend these. Dean candidates might also meet small groups within the college. There will be a process for us to provide feedback via a google form. The Provost promises that she reads every single word of feedback and considers it all.
 - In December, Doug reviewed the situation in Texas and NC with the Provost, explained the differences between us and these situations and the reasons he feels we should remain independent. She agrees. The Provost believes that we have real potential, and change is disruptive.
 - **Comment:** There are over a dozen INFO faculty & staff on the search committee. Back in the fall - we put together a document on what our vision is for this new Dean. We are playing a very large role in the process, and will continue to, up until the campus visits.
 - **Question:** Do feedback opportunities apply to both faculty, and staff? **Answer:** Yes, and also students, if they want.

- o **Question:** A bunch of us have been asked to look at the Plan of Organization for the College. The 2012 plan, but not the 2020 plan, had a ballot for the dean. Why was that eliminated? Discussion about how difficult it is to get a Plan of Organization approved by the University Senate.
- o Money: Campus came up with a process for helping faculty who were harmed by the changes to federal funding priorities. That process has taken applications - 1st results are out, for students - 3 PhD students requested funding, and all 3 of them got funding. Campus is working on decisions on support for faculty, and they are planning to do this again in fall. They expect that the need in the fall will be even higher, and the resources in fall will also be lower. Intent is to preserve some resources to do this again in the fall.
- o The current legislative session will inform our budget for next year, and we should know more by commencement time
- o Kate is coming up with a 60th anniversary event on April 23rd and looking for volunteers - creatives who can help create the concept of the event. Reach out to Kate.
- Post-Doc Introduction [Wayne Lutters]
 - o Faculty Affairs: Faculty Success closes the midnight before spring break and is required for all faculty.
 - o We were authorized to hire - hoping to bring (4) new faculty. We also have a new record # of 8 Post-Docs.
 - o Alan Moss (new PostDoc) gave a brief background and introduction.
- ADA Title II [Vedat Diker & ~~Kevin Remmell~~]
 - o Deadline: April 24, 2026.
 - o Overview of instructional aspects of compliance.
 - o Faculty should take the Pulse Survey if they haven't yet: <https://go.umd.edu/infodapulse>
 - o Urvi Sachin Ashturkar is a GTA who is going to be supporting instructors through this process. ELMS has a tool in it - Ally, which will capture a snapshot of how you're doing in terms of accessibility. It will tag or list the elements that need intervention. Recommend that you use this. Our aim at this point is to capture a snapshot of all our Spring 2026 courses on ELMS. Think of those "Ally" scores as "grades" - 90% A, 80% is B, etc. If you're at a D, you need to work on it.
- ~~Development Updates [Kate Izsak]~~
 - o *Postponed to March*
- Introducing ERIC [Irene Pasquetto] - Emerging Research Interests Community.
 - o Brief overview of New Science & Society group - open to everyone. Check out website or email them to learn more or get involved
 - o scienceandsociety.ischool.umd.edu
 - o scienceandsociety@umd.edu
- Research Support Team Updates [Polly O'Rourke]
 - o Everybody has been doing the things that they have been asked to do
 - o Reminder to fill out the Proposal Request Form
 - o Grand Challenges 2.0. Soon you will have some internal guidance on how this is going to go forward, what the review process is going to be, etc.
- OACES updates [Renee Hill & Ron Padron]
 - o Fun stuff: Digital Accessibility Training - upcoming sessions
 - <https://go.umd.edu/OACEStraining>
 - o Field Trip: Goal is to build community in the college through shared experiences. First one will be to visit the **America Will Be!** Exhibit at the Driskell Center.
 - o Many additional spring OACES-sponsored or related events

- o DOE: Dear Colleague Letter: Statement from UMD Office of General Counsel. The Dear Colleague letter no longer applies since the government dropped its appeal, however - the DOJ's July 2025 Guidance is still in effect, which is functionally the same thing.
- o ICE: There are talks about increased ice presence in our area. A few false reports of ICE on campus. Local Government officials have been asked to please visit in marked cars to avoid confusion.
 - Overview & reminders about what to do if you encounter ICE on campus
 - **Question:** Is it possible for us to recirculate the documents with the numbers for UMPD and Office of General Counsel? **Answer:** Yes, will do
 - **Question:** Is it possible to post in every classroom - instructions, emergency contacts, etc? If something happens, it's hard to remember in the moment. **Answer:** Not possible to post in all classrooms but we'll put something together like a printout you can carry with you
 - **Question:** Are there resources to share with students directly? **Answer:** Yes, but if you are going to, share it with your whole class. Could post it on ELMS so it's accessible but not targeted
 - **Question:** Spaces ICE cannot enter with a warrant - so, they could come into PTX, but not my office? Can they enter the conference rooms? **Answer:** It really comes down to - is the door closed? If it's closed, they can't enter, but if it's open, they can.
 - **Comment:** Some classes are livestreamed, especially during cold & flu season. Consider livestreaming your classes for students who may not feel safe coming to campus.
 - **Comment:** If something happens, remember to call UMPD first, then call UGC
 - There is support for students who might need to pause their studies because they are directly or indirectly impacted - so, if you hear of students in need, let student services know
 - INFO Commons is a public space
- Nominating Committee [Jacob Davidson]
 - o For all elections, the committee must present a slate of candidates to the assembly. Committee should be composed of a majority full-time faculty. (3 of 4 candidates)
 - o Last Year's Committee - 3 of 4 members volunteer to continue serving; 1 volunteer from the room
 - Polly O'Rourke
 - Jessica Grimmer
 - Pamela Duffy
 - Ron Padron
 - o Voice vote: seconded; the Nominating Committee has been accepted

Announcements

- Open Announcements
 - o INFO College Book Drive: Feb. 9-April 17. Craig has created a slide to be included in ELMS, if you want it. Collecting all sorts of books EXCEPT for textbooks.
 - o Commencement - faculty should fill out the form to request rental regalia for the ceremony, if you don't have your own.
 - o We used to have a vote in the past, at assembly, for the Dean, purely advisory. Is there interest to continue doing this, just for the sake of doing it? Not really.

Adjournment

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