



COLLEGE OF INFORMATION

Date: Friday, March 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 February
 - Minutes approved without correction
- Review and approval of this agenda
 - Agenda approved with correction - Honors Program Proposal will be moved to April; 60th Event on April 24 also removed

Assembly Items

- Dean's Update [Doug Oard]
 - 1) Giving Day updates
 - 2) Dean search updates
 - Discussion of: the possibility of major structural changes, secondary appointments, and the timeline for updating the Plan of Organization
- PhD Program Updates [Jessica Vitak]
 - First run of proseminars
 - First-years (fall) & post-candidacy (spring)
 - Pre-candidacy research (PCR) - more robust, minimum of 2 semesters, summer doesn't count. If you're advising any PhD students, please familiarize yourself with this change. All details are in the updated handbook.
 - Request for feedback on dissertation-related policies
- Wayne - faculty search updates & more
 - Thanks to everyone who has been involved thus far. Currently doing 21+ Zoom interviews. Plan is to bring candidates to campus after spring break, possibly as early as the Monday after spring break. Discussing and deliberating & voting on candidates at upcoming APT meeting(s).
- Instructional Support [Jeff Waters]
 - Overview of Spring 2026 Graduate student instructional support: 155 total graduate students over various roles
 - Overview of selection process & timeline
 - If someone on your instructional support team is underperforming, PLEASE let Chris Beatty and Jeff Waters know! Don't wait until the end of the semester, reach out ASAP.
 - Statement of Mutual Expectations is required for ALL TA's, consider doing it for your Course Aids as well. Must be submitted through Workday, reach out to Jeff/Chris if you don't know how.

- OACES Updates [Renee Hill & Ron Padron]
 - End of April deadline for Digital Accessibility. OACES is offering several training slots, or you can schedule an appointment with Ron. Open office hours, and upcoming Zoom trainings next week
 - Open office hours & training will focus on how to make things digitally accessible.
 - INFO CRIT (Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Teaching) last summer - engaged cohort of about 6 people, spanning PTK, TTK, 1 adjunct, and 2 Doctoral students.
 - Changes for this summer: (2) summer cohorts, 1 or 2-day training, and variable modality
- Pre-Award Update [Kyran Richardson & Susan Winter]
 - Funded Research Support Changes - Pre Award is Moving
 - Pre Award = Before a Grant is Awarded
 - Proposal Development Support
 - Proposal Submission
 - Research Support Team will now be doing Pre Award Proposal Development & Submission
 - Transition will happen mid/late-April - this is a work in progress and timeline may change further
- ~~60th Event on April 24~~ [Kate Izsak]
- Digital Accessibility [Vedat Diker & Kevin Remmell]
 - Internal-Facing Documents:
 - Late-breaking from UMD Legal/IT Council:
 - DOJ Title II rules do NOT apply to internal, employee-facing content (that is neither student or public facing)., for ex - payroll forms, contracts, etc.
 - However, UMD must meet requirements and obligations when employees request specific accommodations.
 - Deadline is **April 24, 2026**.
 - Urvi is leading the charge for Academics (infoelmsaccs@umd.edu)
 - We want to hear your “small wins” stories. Send them to us, please, especially if you have specific tools or advice for other faculty. We also want to hear your challenges - send those, too.
 - For staff/admin - Mia (mhinckle@umd.edu)
 - Everything else - Kevin (remmell@umd.edu)
 - Vedat thanks you for all the efforts on this task so far.
- Development [Kelly McCarthy]
 - Kelly McCarthy introduction
- Development Contributions @ 11:00am [Jenny Preece & Ben Shneiderman]
- ~~Honors Program Proposal [Jesse Klein]~~ *Moved to April*
- HCIM Award [Galina Reitz & Tatyana Yevgrafova]
 - HCIM application review award - we want to acknowledge our faculty in reviewing the hundreds of applications. Thank you for all your help!
 - Thanks to our top reviewers, Amanda, Fran, and Alex - each will get tote bags & cookies
- College Advisory Committee Updates [Scott Jackson]
 - Members: Tetyana Bezbabna, Emily Dacquisto, Katrina Fenlon, Scott Jackson, Bern Jordan, Susannah Paletz, Craig Taylor, Jessica Vitak
 - Update 1: Hiring - provided feedback to Wayne
 - Update 2: Staff functions - Craig will be talking to 1st level managers to get feedback on what we can do better with what we have
 - Update 3: College organizations structure - There's been a lot of talk about departmentalization. Susannah asks - why is that the only thing we're considering? She's

interviewing people at other multidisciplinary-unit colleges with other ideas. We're not doing any major structural changes, in the "information-gathering" phase

Announcements

Adjournment

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