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INFO Assembly

September 5th, 2025

Agenda



Preliminaries

Call to order
Review and approval of minutes from May
Review and approval of this agenda
Review May elections

Assembly Items

Dean's Update [Doug Oard]
Academic Programs [Vedat Diker]
iConsultancy [TJ Rainsford & Justin Zielke]
ADA Title 11 [Kevin Remmell]
ADVANCE [Jessica Vitak]
COI/COC Brief [Beth Brittan-Powell]

Announcements

Assembly Representatives Reminder [Jacob Davidson]
OTTRS [Susannah Paletz]
IRB transition [Luis Cortes]
Open Announcements

Adjournment



Assembly Officers

- Assembly Chair - **Jacob Davidson**
- Assembly Secretary - **Jen McGovern**
- Assembly Parliamentarian - **Chris Hawley**

APT Committee

- TTK Co-Chair - **Jen Golbeck**
- PTK Co-Chair - **Kathy Weaver**



College Advisory Committee

- TTK Assistant Professor - **Katrina Fenlon**
- TTK Associate Professor - **Susannah Paletz**
- TTK Full Professor - **Jessica Vitak**
- PTK Faculty Specialist - **Emily Dacquisto**
- PTK Research - **J. Bern Jordan**
- PTK Instructional - **Scott Jackson**
- Staff (Voting) - **Tetyana Bezbabna**
- Staff (Non-Voting) - **Craig Taylor**

Graduate Council

- Graduate Council Representative - **Diana Marsh**

Dean's Update

Doug Oard



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Welcoming New Folks!

- Masha Krupenkin, Assistant Professor
- Sarah Lee, Visiting Senior Lecturer
- Sam McDonald, Lecturer
- Julia Mendelsohn, Assistant Professor
- Lee Tiedrich, Visiting Professor of the Practice
- Danielle Worsham, SDSC Asst Program Director (joint with BSOS)
- Keke Wu, Assistant Professor
- Yiwei Xu, Assistant Professor

Promotions!!!

- Bern Jordan, Associate Research Engineer
- Ryan O'Grady, Senior Lecturer
- Galina Reitz, Principal Lecturer

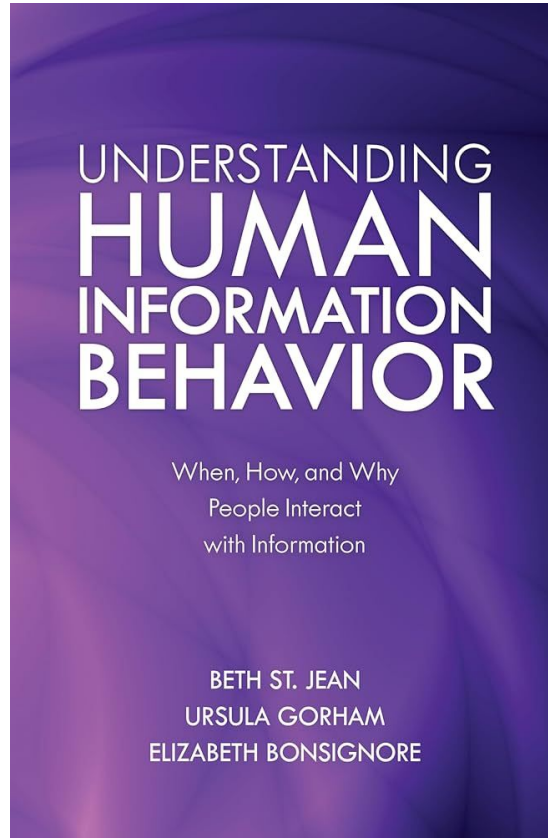
Away This Semester

- Joel Chan
- Jonathan Lazar
- Mega Subramaniam
- Victoria Van Hyning

Back From Sabbatical!

- Amanda Lazar
- Katie Shilton
- David Weintrop

The Inaugural “Development Thanks” Award



Some Things To Discuss

- The Dean search
- The Deans team
- 1. Activist program directors
- 2. Building community in InfoSci
- 3. A culture of mutual support
- The way ahead
- State of the College

Academic Programs

Vedat Diker



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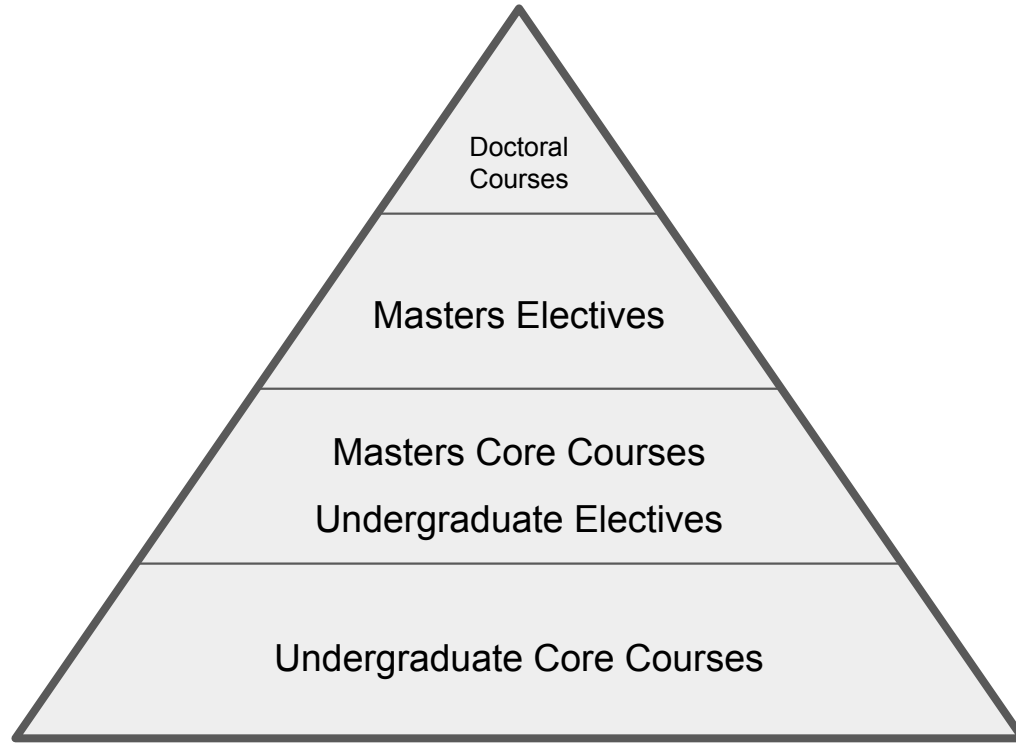
Teaching Matters

INFO College - September 2025

Teaching and academic program priorities

- Engage regular faculty in undergraduate programs and courses
- Increase in-person contact hours in undergraduate courses*
- Offer multiple modalities in masters programs and courses
- Limit sections taught by adjunct instructors*
- Reduce overloads*
- Enrich and diversify Summer course offerings
- Improve instructional support productivity*
- Be selective in launching new courses and programs

A balanced diet of courses is essential for healthy teaching



Summer teaching basics

- Summer is a great time for GSIs and full-time^ faculty* who want to teach more
- Almost all Summer session courses are fully online
- Summer courses help our students make progress towards degree completion
- All Summer session courses are direct-revenue for the College
- Full-time (Regular / Permanent) faculty:
 - Each section pays 10% of 9-month salary (or equivalent) capped at \$15K
- Adjuncts / GSIs:
 - Standard adjunct/TA contract rate

“On-load” vs. “Overload” vs. “Non-overload”

Fall / Spring: Any course section taught beyond on-load is overload

Summer:

Faculty on 9-month contract:

- One summer course **per unpaid* month** counts as “non-overload”
- Once all three summer months are covered, next course is overload

Faculty on 12-month contract:

- **Any** summer course section is overload

Winter: Any course section is overload; (i.e., no on-load, no non-overload)

All on-load teaching happens in Fall / Spring. None can be moved to Sum./Win.

Program support faculty structures

- A new perspective on how faculty members participate in academic program governance
- The standard has been to serve as program committee members
- Known issues, such as high turnover, perceived member-committee mismatch
- The new structure envisions ways to participate that go beyond just the committees
- Longer term membership, more stable program support structures

A now for something completely different...



**FACULTY: Please scan the
QR code to take the
Spring 2026 Teaching
Interest survey
if you haven't already!



Scheduling Reminders & Updates

Spring 2026 Course Assignments

- Making assignments for PTK/TTK faculty over the next couple of weeks, adjuncts will follow
- Planning to host a few virtual “office hours” late Sept.-Oct. for faculty to chat, ask questions about course assignments, anything scheduling-related

Final Exam reminders

- For in-person exams, faculty are not allowed to deviate from the final exam schedule created by the University
- If your in-person or blended class is NOT planning to have an in-person final exam, please let Jen know:
jmcdona@umd.edu

Contact us: infoftinsupp@umd.edu

Questions?

iConsultancy

TJ Rainsford &
Justin Zielke



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iConsultancy

- Service Organization
- Who we serve
 - Non-Profit/Community Orgs: 37.4%
 - Government: 16.2%
 - UMD: 22.9%
 - For-Profit: 23.5%



2024-2025 Academic Year

- ~200 Projects
- ~900 Students (graduate and undergraduate)
- 75 Clients
 - Non-Profit/Community Orgs: 45.5%
 - Government: 14.2%
 - UMD: 31.2%
 - For-Profit: 9.1%



2025-2026 Academic Year

- 210-220 Capstone Projects Projected (~65 Fall 2025)
- 8-10 Non-Capstone/Course Projects (3-4 Starting Fall 2025)
- Additional cooperative experiential learning opportunities



ADA Title II Changes / Working Group

Kevin Remmell



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Why

- **ADA Title II Change**

- *Change:* All content accessible by default to people with disabilities, rather than through an accommodation request
- *Deadline:* April 24, 2026

- **UMD Accessible Technology Policy**

- Minimum standards for the accessibility of all University web-based information
- The Digital Accessibility Advisory Committee (DAAC) is charged with developing a Digital Accessibility Plan to be delivered in December

What

**ALL public and private content developed by
INFO faculty, staff, and graduate students:**

- Websites
- Instructional content
- Video & audio (captions and descriptions)
- Documents (PDFs and Word, presentations, spreadsheets, etc.)
- Software and mobile apps
- Social media

What is Exempt

Exemptions:

- Social media posts prior to April 24, 2026
- Archived content that's still referenced but not actively used
 - *Example:* 2017 student handbook
- Third-party content not contracted, licensed, or otherwise arranged for by the University
 - *Example:* comments on a social media page to which you link in your instructional materials

***All digital content exempt under the new rule must be made accessible upon request**

How

INFO Digital Accessibility Working Group

- Diker, Vedat / Bezbabna, Tetyana
- Hinckle, Mia
- Jaeger, Paul
- Padron, Ron
- Reitz, Galina
- Remmell, Kevin

When

Fall 2025:

- Working group meets, audits needs, develops plan
- IT and Comms teams begin website audits/changes
- Training
- Checklists and resources by December Assembly

Spring 2026:

- Implementation
- Training
- Deadline: April 24, 2026

What This Means for You (Spring)

Preparation (all):

- Working Group checklist
- Complete training

Instruction:

- Audit ELMS/course materials
- Update instructional videos, presentations, documents
- Update instructional websites

Research:

- Update research lab/group and project websites

Everyone:

- Meet accessibility and captioning standards for all videos and social media
- Update admin documents - PDFs, forms, etc.

Questions?

ADVANCE

Jessica Vitak



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ADVANCE Program: <https://advance.umd.edu>

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ADVANCE PROGRAM FOR INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

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[Resources](#) [Research](#)

Mission & Vision



In alignment with UMD's Strategic Plan, *Fearlessly Forward*, and its commitment to Investing in People and Communities, the mission of the ADVANCE Program is to support the recruitment, retention, advancement, and professional growth of a diverse and thriving faculty. Our vision is to create an academic work environment where all faculty thrive.

To achieve these goals, ADVANCE Program activities are concentrated in four areas:

- ***Peer Networks:*** Faculty learning communities for faculty members of different identities, appointment types, and career stages that meet regularly to discuss issues of career advancement.
- ***Education and Training:*** Evidence-based workshops and trainings about diversity, equity, and inclusion issues such as bias, bystander intervention, inclusive hiring and workload.
- ***Advocacy and Advising:*** Strategic advice to campus policymaking bodies and membership on campus committees related to faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- ***Research and Evaluation:*** Disseminate best practices and lessons learned to internal and external stakeholders.

My goal as your ADVANCE professor: **facilitate faculty professional growth and success.**

How will I do that?

1. Help faculty access information on the policies, practices, and resources they can leverage to advance their careers.
2. Provide feedback to INFO leadership on barriers/challenges to faculty success.
3. Support the uptake of policies, practices, and resources that enhance inclusivity and equity within INFO.

Questions about ADVANCE or any of its programs?

Ideas/suggestions for events or resources that would benefit your career?

Email me at jvitak@umd.edu

COI/COC Brief

Beth Brittan-Powell



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Culture of Compliance

The University of Maryland's (UMD) reputation as a premier research institution depends on its reputation for research integrity. It is in this spirit that we expect all research undertaken at the institution to meet the highest standards for integrity in all areas of research endeavors (e.g., authorship and publication; data management and reporting; export compliance; conflict of interest and conflict of commitment disclosures and transparency; mentorship; use of human subjects or animals; laboratory, biological and radiation safety) as established by the international research community. To that end, we are dedicated to providing our faculty, students, trainees, and staff with the support, education, and resources necessary to ensure a culture of integrity in every aspect of their work.

Preamble to the Research Support Oversight Committee



Engaging Responsibly in External Activities: Our new inTERP Disclosure System

Dr. Philip DeShong, COI Committee Chair

Dr. Beth Brittan-Powell, Director, Disclosure Office

Ms. Maura Trimble, Assistant Director

Ms. Tiffany Klingelhofer, Sr. Disclosure Specialist

Ms. Sheena Afoakwa, Disclosure Specialist

Ms. Sophie Page, Disclosure Specialist

Ms. Glynis Smith, Disclosure Specialist

inTERP

inTegrated External Relationship Portal

Designed to enhance and streamline reporting and managing COI and COC by integrating the functionalities of three existing UMD systems:

- the Outside Professional Activities (OPA) reporting system
- the current COI Disclosure System (KCOI)
- the Office of Faculty Affairs Consulting MOU system.

inTERP provides a **single site** where all outside activities are disclosed, reviewed, and dispositioned in a centralized system-of-record.

REDUCES administrative burden of faculty and staff → ***IMPROVES*** the accuracy and accessibility of COI and COC records required by funding agencies.

<https://research.umd.edu/coi>
inTERP@umd.edu



Policy on Conflict of Interest & Conflict of Commitment, Section II-3.10(A)

Conflicts of Commitment (COC): typically arises when otherwise positive activities may compromise the fulfillment of an employee's basic job responsibilities to the University.

Conflicts of Interest (COI): typically involves potential financial gain or personal benefit to an employee or related individuals; or research bias.



Policy on Consulting, Section II-3.10(E)

Consulting

- Paid or unpaid
- Disclosures are required prior to starting agreements.
- Faculty may undertake Consulting up to one (1) day per calendar week (equivalent to 8 hours), across all consultancy agreements.
- Must sign an internal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).



Disclose to Propose requirement, effective October 1, 2025

- *Any proposals where the researcher does not have a current inTERP disclosure will be placed on COI Hold and will not be submitted by ORA.*
 - A proposal deadline will not negate this requirement.
 - Holds will only be lifted upon disclosure completion or with a formal Dean-requested exception approved by the Vice President for Research.
- **This will apply to all proposals for all external funding entities.**



Pride Ourselves on Customer Service



Outreach

- 1:1 office hours
- Trainings
- Website
- Guides
- Videos (in progress)

interp@umd.edu

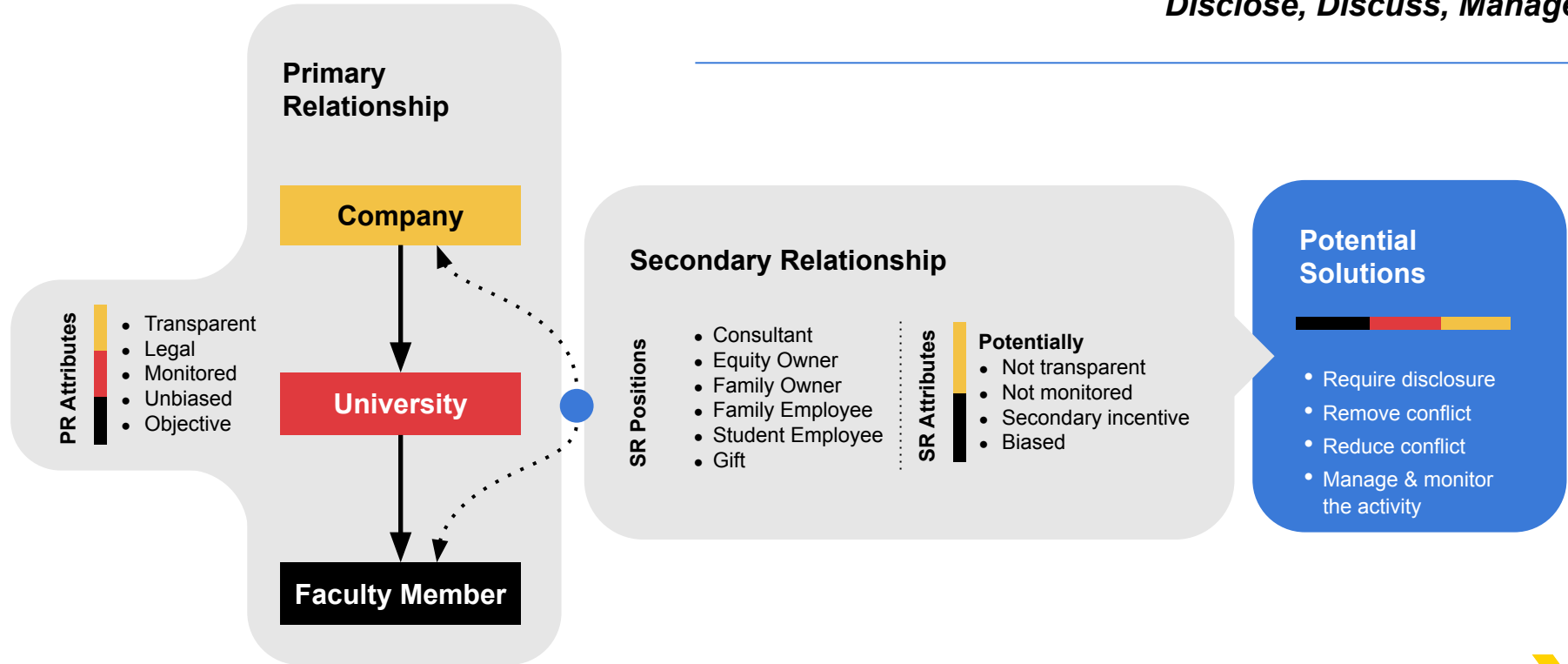




Questions?

Mitigating a Research Conflict of Interest

Disclose, Discuss, Manage



Announcements



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Non-Voting College Population Representatives for Assembly

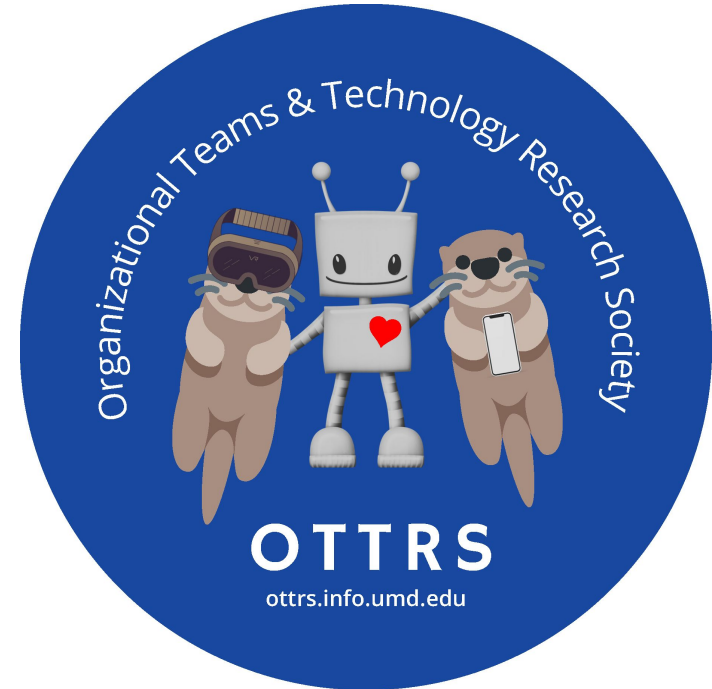
- Part-Time Faculty - *Vacant*
- Part-Time Staff - *Vacant* (No eligible candidates)
- PhD Students - **Sungjin Hwang**
- HCIM - *Vacant*
- MIM - *Vacant*
- MLIS - **Belane Ayelework**
- GEM - *Vacant*
- Data Journalism - *Vacant*
- Information Science at College Park- *Vacant*
- Information Science at Shady Grove - *Vacant*
- Information Design - *Vacant*
- Social Data Science - *Vacant*

Student vacancies should be filled by October 1st.

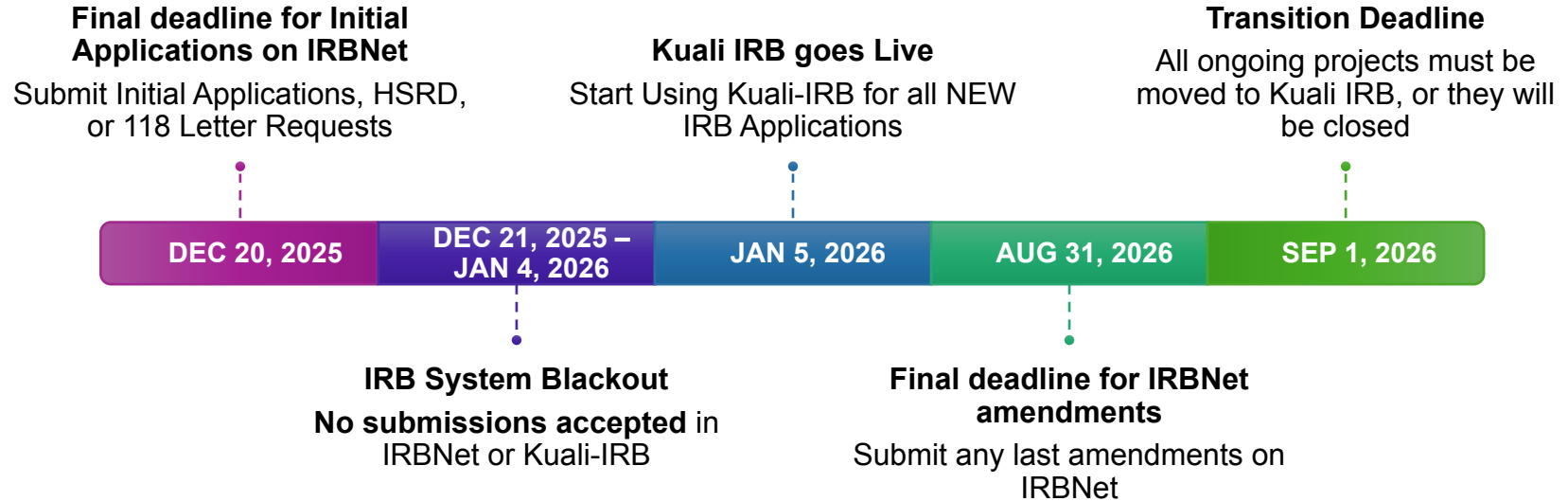
Organizational Teams & Technology Research Society (OTTRS)

<http://ottrs.info.umd.edu>

To join our mailing list(s), go to website or
email Susannah Paletz at paletz@umd.edu



Transition to Kuali-IRB



Open Announcements



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Thank You

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