

SIS Governance Assessment... reflections from SIS Council

All-faculty meeting

April 28, 2010

Aspirations (2005)

- Foster and incubate research focus areas in the School
- Leverage existing experience and expertise across the School
- Offer appropriate professional and academic programs

Activities & Outcomes

- **Foster and incubate research focus areas in the School**
 - RIGs
 - **Round 1 (fall 2006):** Ethics & Policy, **Spatial Information**, **Cyberinfrastructure**, **SAIS**, **Health Information**, **Cultural Heritage**, **Online Ed**, Human-centered Interactive Systems, Visualization
 - Proposals submitted, reviewed, voted on by faculty September 2006
 - \$53K of \$105K expended by end of fiscal year
 - **Round 2 (spring 2008):** Ethics & Policy, **Mobile Location-Based Recommender**, **SAIS**, Health Information, Human Centered Interactive Systems, **Infrastructure and Applications for Information Aggregation and Information Access (IA3)**, **Intelligent Wireless Networks and Systems**, **2 LIS lecture series**, **LERSAIS speaker series**, **GIS online course development**
 - Flexible submissions schedule
 - 4 RIGs funded plus speakers & course development at \$94.5K, of which \$47.5K was expended
 - **Round 3 (spring 2009):** Faculty recommend changing investment strategy, noting the problem needs faculty time more than money
 - Post-doc (Kai-Florian Richter) hired to foster the development of collaborative research
 - Work focused on spatial information research and considered to be successful
 - **Round 4 (spring 2010):** Opportunity announced for a 2010-11 post-doc
 - Search committee formed
 - Announcements posted

Activities & Outcomes, cont'd

- **Foster and incubate research focus areas in the School**
 - **Increase in research partnerships outside of SIS**
 - Mellon-funded Cyberscholarship project
 - Established successful working relationship with new funder
 - **Strategic faculty hires in priority research areas**
 - Pressure on teaching coverage
 - “What SIS Faculty Are Reading” Blog
 - Limited active engagement
 - Martin added “Networked Blogs” widget for Facebook link
 - SIS Colloquium series
 - Reasonably successful
 - Staff support for faculty and students
 - Consolidated 4 staff retirements into 2 new positions (Wes & Kelly)
 - Writing and budget support is strong (Kelly & Susan)
 - Student Services director

Activities & Outcomes, cont'd

- **Foster and incubate research focus areas in the School**
 - LIS “Talking about Research” discussion group
 - Jointly-authored essay in *Library Trends*
 - Interest in engaging PhD students and non-LIS faculty
 - Collaborative student engagement in authorship
 - *First Monday* (2008)
 - *Library & Archival Security* (2009)
 - Special double issue of *Journal of Information Ethics* (2010)
 - **Reallocation and refurbishment of space**
 - **Doctoral students (ex-VISC space)**
 - **LERSAIS lab**
 - **LG-11**
 - **8th floor (in progress)**

Activities & Outcomes, cont'd

- **Leverage existing experience and expertise across the School**
 - **Evolution of SIS Council**
 - **Role and agenda becoming clearer**
 - **Tracking of School issues improving**
 - **Promotion & tenure policy & procedures revised**
 - Peer Review of Teaching (PRT)
 - Substantial improvement follows from faculty focus
 - Faculty experimenting across programs
 - Glenn & Roger teaching LIS students
 - Hassan developing *GIS for Librarians* curriculum and book
 - Daqing teaching IS students and including IS & LIS students in research group
 - SIS 2000
 - Serious and sustained effort across the School
 - Experimental course delivered (Stephen & Rich T)
 - Overall, remains an aspirational goal

Activities & Outcomes, cont'd

- **Leverage existing experience and expertise across the School**
 - **Sustained work with HR on internal processes**
 - **Student , Faculty, and Business Services**
 - **Research process mapping**
 - LIS “alphabet team” approach to shared leadership
 - LIS “Talking about Teaching” discussion group
 - Parametric faculty model increases specificity and objectivity of reviews
 - Updated annually in response to faculty input
 - Intended side effect on faculty activity planning yet to be fully realized
 - Unintended side effect on program chairs’ management of teaching assignments and costs associated with cross-program teaching

Activities & Outcomes, cont'd

- **Offer appropriate professional and academic programs**
 - **Introduction of curricular specializations in each program**
 - Refocus of Telecommunications & Networking curriculum
 - Telecom expansion in undergraduate program
 - Autonomy of undergraduate program
 - New curriculum and concentrations focus on employer needs
 - Reduced engagement of graduate faculty observed
 - “Working Memory” seminar series (Fall 2010)
 - Partnership with HSLS on CAS
 - Mellon-funded iSchool Inclusion Initiative (i3) to launch summer institutes series in 2011

External Assessments

- Our annual plan submission gets consistently better reviews each year.
- Provost expresses support for the directions the School is going
 - “... affirming the significant advances made by SIS ... and promising his continued and sustained support for the School”
- Board of Visitors has been highly supportive of progress over the past two years
 - “SIS Council is becoming successful in developing ways to execute its mandate as the primary governance vehicle for the School”
 - “The leadership provided by the Program Chairs ... commended.”
 - “The Student Services Office ... a notable success story”

Internal Assessments:

Sample comments from annual reports

- 2007
 - I think that the revised governance plan has resulted in a more streamlined and communicative structure ... and I remain optimistic that the revisions are a positive benefit. I have felt no impedance!
 - I think that the revised governance structure provides better support to my work in general. Although there are still some problems, I think that the direction ... is right.
 - Overall, the SIS Council has been more positive in providing a forum for school-wide issues such as tenure and promotion. However, the role of SIS Council is in need of additional fine-tuning...
 - I have not yet felt significant effect of the new governance – either way.
 - I detect a strong resistance by some faculty to retard, if not undermine, the reorganization.
 - I am disappointed that the revised governance structure hasn't had a greater impact to date.

Internal Assessments:

Sample comments from annual reports

- 2008
 - I think it is absolutely necessary to free up faculty time to get research moving.
 - Currently, there exists a very positive relationship with [another program] chair and we have discussed numerous times strategies to develop a stronger tie between [the two programs].
 - There have been concerns regarding the ability of the faculty to support the tracks, but so far we have been able to handle the course requirements with minimal use of adjuncts.
 - My work has not seemed to be affected by the change in governance structure.

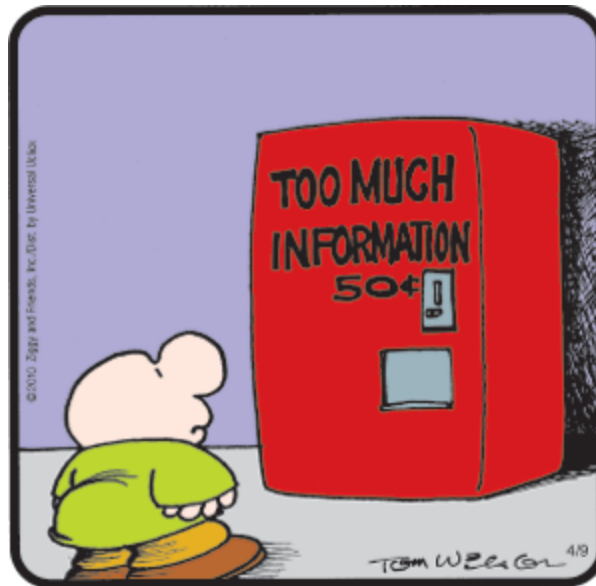
Internal Assessments:

Sample comments from annual reports

- 2009
 - If the administration can identify even one or two specific things they can do to make faculty across disciplines **excited** to work together and do it, I think the school will be better off for it in the long run.
 - My work has not seemed to be affected by the change in governance structure.
 - ... research productivity requires more staff support.
 - ... curricular modifications based on an assessment of educational outcomes [are needed].
 - I am extremely disappointed that [SIS-2K] has failed.

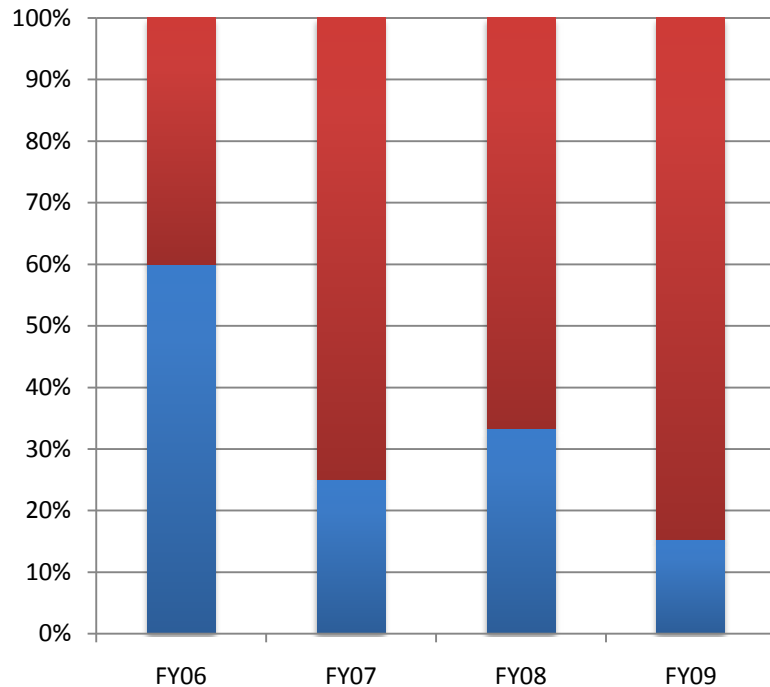
No Time for Complacency

- We've tried a few things, and some of them have worked.
- How can we do better with the resources that we have?

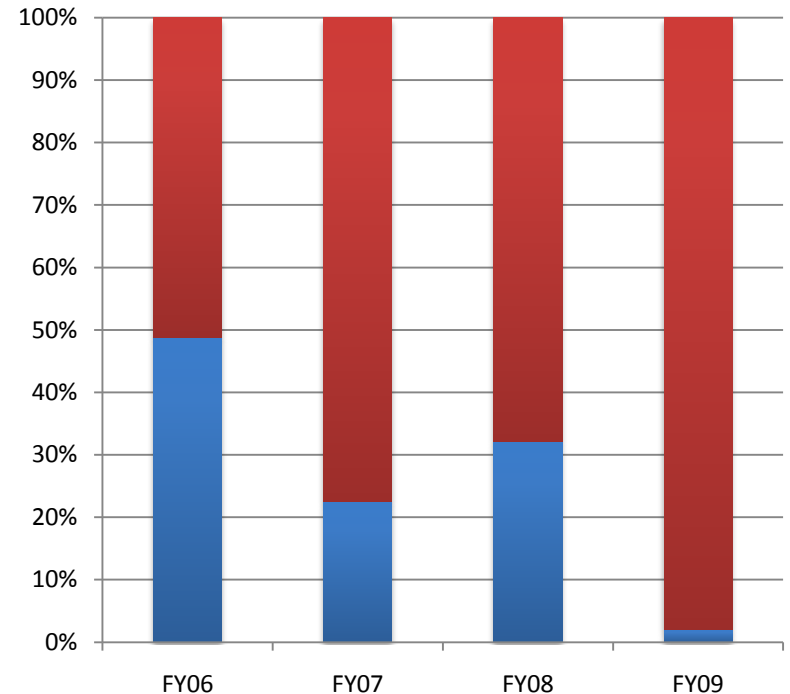


External Collaborative Projects vs. Strictly SIS

Funded Proposals



Proportional Funding



■ External Collaborator ■ SIS-only