

Report of the Chair, Information Culture and Data Stewardship (formerly Library
and Information Science) to the Board of Visitors
Richard J. Cox
August 22, 2016

Please consider this report a work in progress, as I have only been the Chair since July 1, 2016. I was elected in February 2016 to be the new Chair. Subsequently I met individually with each faculty member and a number of staff, the Dean, Associate Dean, and Chief of Staff to discuss issues and concerns related to our programs and new initiatives. Based on these discussions and other observations, I drafted an agenda for a day-long faculty retreat to be held on September 9th (a meeting I will be able to report on in greater detail at the BOV meeting).

Our faculty were most importantly involved in the planning discussions for the new School. This prompted, among other things, a renaming of the LIS program to be that of the Information Culture and Data Stewardship program (hopefully soon to be approved as a Department). This new name reflects our research interests in and commitment to preparing students to be aware of how information works within the broader society and the developing digital culture, namely, among other things, its ethical, policy, legal, and historical dimensions.

We also began a restructuring of the curriculum to focus on three areas, Library and Information Services, Archives and Information Science, and Data Stewardship (the latter a brand new emphasis that we believe will position us for a fit within the new School).

As all this was going on, we had to deal with some major changes in our faculty. Jung So Oh decided not to seek reappointment. Daqing He now has his primary appointment in the new Informatics and Networked Systems (although he will continue to teach some courses in ICDS). Liz Lyon was appointed as the interim holder of the Boyce Endowed Chair. And Amelia Acker abruptly resigned at the end of the Spring term to accept another faculty position (previous to this she had moved to the INS program). Ellen Detlefsen also retired at the end of the Spring term after 43 years of being on the faculty. Some of these changes weakened us, but they also provide an opportunity to rebuild a new and more dynamic faculty.

The purposes of the impending retreat are to identify the key issues and priorities that the ICDS must deal with in the Academic Year 2016/17. Identification of these action priorities will determine the substance, structure, and schedule of subsequent DICDS faculty meetings. Clearly, we face substantial challenges because of declining enrollments, declining revenue, and a reduced faculty (among other things). We need to work together to identify positive solutions to these and other matters. My hope is that we will identify several major initiatives that will have the greatest positive impact on our rebuilding and that subsequent faculty meetings will be held to discuss position papers and other proposals as they emerge from small working groups. We will be considering our vision, financial realities, curricular

matters, and recruitment and marketing. While I have definite ideas about what I think will be the priorities, I will refrain until I can report on what actually emerges from the retreat.

We had a number of faculty, student, and alumnae achievements during this past year. Here are some of the highlights. Kate Madison, while a MLIS student in the AIS program, received the Society of American Archivists F. Gerald Ham and Elsie Ham Scholarship (\$10,000). Matt Gorzalski, a 2008 MLIS graduate in the AIS area, was an Emerging Leader by the Society of American Archivists. Michele Moore Ridge, an MLIS graduate, received Seton Hill University's Medal of Distinction for her work with the university and in the construction of the Erie County Public Library. Linda Lafferty, an MLIS graduate, received a Jefferson Award for her work with the Blessings in a Backpack organization, providing food to elementary school children. Sheila Corral and Kip Currier won the LIBER Innovation Award for their paper on legal, ethical, and policy issues with Big Data. Leanne Bowler and Amelia Acker received a \$109,000 grant from the IMLS for a two-year project, "Exploring Data Worlds at the Public Library: Programs and Pedagogy in Support of Youth Data Literacy." Faculty continue to publish, such as Richard J. Cox, Alison Langmead, and Eleanor Mattern, eds., *Archival Research and Education: Selected Papers from the 2014 AERI Conference* (Sacramento, CA: Litwin Books, 2014). During this past year we also established an Ethics Reading Group, and this group of faculty is working on a collection of essays on ethics in iSchools.