School of Information Sciences (SIS)
FY 2011 Plan

Overview

SIS needs to maintain the integrity and rigor of its programs while building on its successes. Progress has been made in increasing student enrollment and scholarly productivity. Its Plan is a realistic assessment of where it is, what has been done, and what additional steps need to be taken to maintain and improve its position nationally, internationally and within the University. There was no mention of where its programs fall in national rankings.

Objectives

1. Provide high quality undergraduate programs
2. Offer superior graduate programs
3. Engage in research
4. Cooperate with public and private sector institutions
5. Offer continuing education programs
6. Contribute to the local, state and national communities
7. Ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness
8. Expand international focus and activities
9. Develop collaborative research
10. Diversity

These objectives differ slightly from the SIS FY 10 document:

1. Increase student enrollment
2. Increase external funding
3. Provide innovative educational opportunities
4. Enhance research productivity
5. Develop greater organizational effectiveness
6. Develop objectives, strategies and measures for SIS experiential goals
7. Provide state of the art instructional infrastructure
8. Support University's diversity goals

1. Provide high quality undergraduate programs

There has been a 4% enrollment increase. The development of a 30 credit-hour second undergraduate degree program and the development of SIS experiential goals are behind schedule.

2. Offer superior graduate programs

MSIS enrollment is on target. Applications to the Master's programs have also increased: MLIS—19%; MSIS—70%; MST—11%. The increase in endowment for scholarships is behind schedule due to the economic climate. An online educational opportunity is available to students who cannot come to campus is behind schedule. Sustain national leadership on information assurance research and education is on schedule. SIS has been recertified as a CAE-IAE in all 5 IA standards and CAE-IAR. The renovation of the 8th floor computer labs and shared learning spaces is behind schedule. The requirements for space utilization and conceptual designs need to be developed.

3. Engage in research

Research awards have increased 3.43%. School-wide Colloquium series have been developed. This has increased opportunities for communication and collaboration among the faculty and has fostered joint research proposals. Participation in "SIS Faculty" blog and faculty mentoring is behind schedule. National leadership in Information Assurance research has been obtained through significant funding from NSF, DOD and DHS for the SAIS program.

4. Cooperate with public and private sector institutions

SIS is on target in securing at least $360,000 in gifts and pledges. As of 1/27/10, $259,000 has been received. Recruiting efforts were restructured and expanded. MSIS applications are up 70% over last year and enrollment has continued to increase, although it is still below the target. The LIS Partners Program has continued to grow. A common introductory graduate course has been developed.

5. Offer continuing education programs

The CAS in LIS program has been restructured to a more marketable certificate. A CAS in Health Sciences Leadership course begins May, 2010. A proposal has been submitted to IMLS for CAS in Geoinformatics.

6. Contribute to the local, state and national communities

Numerous SIS and faculty collaborations have been developed and maintained.

7. Ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness

Student services have been enhanced through the conversion to the Apply Yourself system. A Director of Administration will be hired to provide strategic administrative leadership and support to the Dean, faculty, staff and students. Discussions have begun on assessing the success of the restructured iSchool. Progress has been made in securing funds to underwrite the retrofit of student lab spaces, but more funds are needed.

8. Expand international focus and activities

External funding for student international experiences is behind schedule due to unfavorable economic conditions. SIS continues to host international visiting scholars and supports travel for students to international conferences. International research collaboration has been expanded through new initiatives with Ajou, Athabasca and Wuhan Universities. Opportunities for international educational experiences have been developed with Beijing Institute of Technology and the Universities of Pristina, Tsukuba, Siam, Toronto, Singapore Mgt and Humboldt.

9. Develop collaborative research

External funding from NSF and the Office of Naval Research has been obtained to support collaborative research and education. A research scientist to facilitate collaborative projects has been hired. The SIS Doctoral Guild offers a series of colloquium to encourage cross-disciplinary research. The iSchools have collaborated to participate in the DARPA Network Challenge.

10. Diversity

For Fall Term 2009, there were decreases in the percentages of minority students in each program: BSIS—6.3%; MSIS—.35%; MST—4.8%; LIS—6.06%. Funding from various sources to improve recruitment success has been obtained. For Fall Term 2009, 8.22% of enrolled students are from underrepresented populations. Diversity recruitment has been expanded. A grant from the AW Mellon Foundation was received to increase the number of faculty members from underrepresented backgrounds.