Information Services Committee

University of Toronto
Faculty of Information
Wednesday, May 22, 2013 12:00 – 1:30 pm
Room 212 (DCR), Bissell Building

SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes

Present: Dean Seamus Ross (Chair), Prof. Kelly Lyons, Prof. Aviv Shachak (via teleconference), Ms. Susan Brown, Prof. Kelly Lyons, Ms. Eva Piorkowski, Ms. Adriana Rossini, Ms. Elisa Sze, Ms. Laura Chuang (MI Student), Mr. Ned Struthers (MI Student)

Regrets: Prof. Brian Cantwell Smith, Ms. Nalini K. Singh, Ms. Ana Martins (MMSt Student), Mr. Antonio Gamba-Bari (PhD Student)

Observers: Prof. Lynne Howarth, Prof. Patrick Keilty, Ms. Adriana Dragomir, Mr. Andrew Drummond, Mr. Alex Dvornyak, Mr. Tony Lemmens, Mr. Percy Lo, Ms. Nadia Moro, Ms. Anna Oh, Mr. Michael Ridley, Ms. Kathleen Scheaffer, Ms. Kimberly Silk

Recorder: Ms. Areti Vourinaris

1. Task Force on Strategic Directions for Information Services Final Report

The Chair recognized Mr. Michael Ridley, Chair of the Task Force on Information Services, who thanked the iSchool community for its valuable contributions and input. He also presented an overview of the report which was reflective of multiple voices and ideas through a consultative process which was both effective and a continuation of a transformational process.

- Six transformational recommendations were highlighted from the report as follows:
  1) The Inforum & Information Services: Enablers of Exploration, Experimentation, Incubation & Laboratories
  2) Curriculum & Co-curriculum: Coordination, Alignment, & Relevance
  3) Digital iSchool & IT Innovation: Presence, Cloud, On-Demand, Research Support & Toolkits
  4) External Communities: Building Partnerships & Engagement
  5) Efficient Operations: Standardizing & Streamlining Core Services
  6) Synergy & Innovation: Merging Information Services & the iSchool Institute
There was considerable discussion regarding the supporting recommendations of the TFIS.

During the discussion of the item, the following issues were raised:
- It was noted that the leadership piece was essential in moving forward.
- The Chair made a note to thanks to the IS Task Force Committee for all its work.
- Members and observers expressed excitement about the great opportunities for the future.
- There was some discussion about the proposed iField Institute as a new unit.
- The iField Institute as a place to broaden opportunities via integration and collaboration.
- The challenge of continual integration while maintaining momentum.
- The merging of Information Services and the iSchool Institute will require leadership and good faith.
- There was some discussion about the research recommendations outlined in the report.
- It was noted that it would be up to the iField Institute to determine research foci and have faculty engage with research projects, collaborate, and make use of services – not just as a support service etc.
- There was some discussion about the space recommendations and their allocations i.e. a policy would need to be developed e.g. to differentiate between dedicated, flexible space, and drop-in spaces.
- There was some discussion about the proposed name of the iField Institute and the potential for confusion with the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences.
- The iField Institute name was developed to highlight that the unit would be part of a field of practice and research and to have a sense of gravitas and stability.
- It was recommended that a branding exercise take place for the iField Institute.
- There was some discussion about the recommendation to create a Collaborative Learning Centre by converting Room 417 (and its surrounding rooms: 415, 416 and 418) into a dynamic learning space.
- It was suggested that the demand and scheduling for Room 417 would need further investigation.
- There was some discussion about the recommendation to phase out desktop support in computer labs and invest in laptops and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) accommodations.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Dean Seamus Ross that the Information Services Committee endorse the Task Force on Strategic Directions for Information Services Final Report to Faculty Council AND that the Information Services Committee be tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Task Force on Strategic Directions for Information Services Final Report. AND that the iField Institute name be a placeholder until the Information Services Committee can come up with another one AND that Information Services Committee thank Michael Ridley and the members of the Information Services Task Force for their excessive hard work, and on the depth and scope of the
report

as set out in the documentation provided by the Task Force on Strategic Directions for Information Services to the Information Services Committee

BE APPROVED. Seconded by Prof. Kelly Lyons. CARRIED.

2. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.