

## SLIS STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 - 2020

### STRATEGIC PLAN

**VISION:** Through excellence in teaching, research, and service, SLIS is committed to educating socially responsible information professionals prepared to empower diverse populations in a multitude of contexts, communities and cultures.

**MISSION:** To advance the theory, art and practice of professions specializing in the use and creation of information in traditional and emergent forms.

**VALUES:** Since its beginnings more than forty years ago, SLIS has developed a unique interdisciplinary personality that blends the arts, humanities, and social sciences. We support a mutual belief in and respect for those we serve. This is evident in our strong support of intellectual freedom, access to all and the tenets of social justice.

### SLIS GOALS

The following priority goals and program goals follow from the vision, mission and values statements approved by the faculty.

For several years, SLIS developed, maintained and revised the Working Plan, a document that was consulted “as priorities are identified, considered, and adjusted.” The following goals pay homage to that document while at the same time looking to the future.

#### Priority Goals:

- 1). To extend and diversify the School’s program options, its outreach efforts, and collaborative and interdisciplinary activities.
- 2). To leverage relevant and challenging programs of study in Library and Information Science and the Book Arts that enable students to meet educational, professional and personal goals.
- 3). To recruit quality students, faculty, and staff who are culturally and intellectually diverse.
- 4). To increase the School’s productivity in research, scholarship and creative activity.
- 5). To continue to improve the School’s visibility and reputation in Alabama, the region, nationally and internationally.
- 6). To allocate appropriately human, financial and physical resources to enhance academic programs for students, the work environment for faculty and staff, and the life of the School for all members of the SLIS community.

#### Program Goals:

Upon completion of the SLIS Master of Library and Information Studies program, all graduates should be prepared to be contributors, leaders and change agents in libraries, archives, information centers and related environments. They should be forward thinking while at the same time being aware of the values and traditions of the information professions. They should;

- 1). Be able to anticipate trends and play a leadership role in effecting positive change in the information professional’s role in society.

- 2). Demonstrate an understanding of the principal contemporary issues associated with librarianship, information science, access to information and the role of information in society.
  - 3). Develop critical, creative and analytical thinkers capable of developing evidence based solutions.
  - 4). Promote a user-centered approach to information programs and services to meet the needs of diverse populations.
  - 5). Develop programs and activities consistent with the heritage, principles, responsibilities, trends and standards of the information professions.
  - 6). Safeguard and make available the cultural, intellectual and technological records of humankind.
  - 7). Act at all times in an ethical manner.
  - 8). Continue professional development by staying current with research and practice of the information fields as they evolve.
- These goals are reflected in the core courses and are communicated to students through advising and exposure to practicing professionals, including invited presentations, assignments and internships.

### **Action Steps for an Intellectually Challenging, Socially Responsible Degree Program**

This document derives from discussions in April 2015 in response to College Strategic Planning activities as well as from faculty discussions throughout the Fall 2015 semester.

- 1). Continue the development and recognition of a research culture;
  - increase faculty presence in juried and peer reviewed outlets
  - pursue grants and contracts
  - participate in College research incentive programs
  - increase collaborative research activities
  - participate in the redesign and restructuring of the PhD program.
- 2). Continue to develop program offerings that meet the needs of a changing information environment;
  - ensure that the MLIS degree remains on the cutting edge of LIS hiring needs by soliciting regular feedback from traditional stakeholders and from information professionals outside the direct context of a LIS degree
  - collaborate with others in the College to provide innovative course and program offerings
  - formalize the archives specialization
  - explore AASL/CAEP recognition of the school library media certification program
  - organize areas of emphasis
  - expand the use of exit interviews.
- 3). Explore/develop an undergraduate program in information;
  - work with leaders across the College, University and profession to examine the possibility, need and feasibility for envisioning and formalizing courses and degree options in information at the undergraduate level.
  - draw comparisons with emerging undergraduate programs at peer institutions, particularly those in a communications context

- develop appropriate goals, learning outcomes and career possibilities
  - target audiences
  - pilot courses and course groupings
  - evaluate and revise.
- 4). Build on SLIS' unique strength in the Book Arts;
    - develop collaborative opportunities based on findings of a recent IMLS grant.
  - 5). Build and diversify our student body through active recruitment;
    - develop an actionable and sustainable recruitment strategy
    - continue regional, national, and international Distance Education recruitment
    - make social responsibility and justice a point of emphasis for the School in order to be more attractive to students from underserved communities
    - sustain and strengthen values of pluralism, inclusivity and respect within our community
    - build our reputation with local and regional colleges and universities
    - increase efforts to attract UA undergraduates from a variety of degree programs
    - recruit at local, regional and national academic and professional meetings
    - explore the feasibility of implementing a Knowledge River or similar program.
  - 6). Explore iSchool membership;
    - investigate models in the college and university contexts.
  - 7). Continue to support our alumni and elicit their expertise as we move forward.
    - strengthen our connection with DE alumni
    - strengthen our connection with Book Arts graduates
    - be proactive in including alumni in current and new alumni activities.
  - 8). Regularly review program goals, objectives and action steps;
    - continue to involve our stakeholders.