

SILS Town Hall Meeting  
October 1, 2010

*Present: Tyler Dzuba (ILSSA), Ashlee Edwards (ISSUE), and Dean Gary Marchionini  
Discussion of student issues at the School of Information and Library Science*

Undergraduate concerns:

Undergraduate students at SILS feel invisible and ignored. They feel the faculty need to have a better understanding of undergraduate students and that they need to stop calling them out for their age or other flaws. Concerns were also expressed in regards to grading and being evaluated fairly. The undergraduate students really want to be recognized for their passion for learning and intellectual ability regardless of age. Undergraduates are just as involved in other activities at the university, have the same busy schedules, and commitments as graduate students.

***Undergraduate students would like more interaction with the graduate students and the following suggestions were made on how to bridge the gap between the classes:***

- Less focus on happy hour, come up with other ideas for events and have more neutral activities that students of all ages can attend.
- Organize an ISSUE/ILSSA Social event
- Create an undergraduate and graduate mentoring program where students can connect with each other to ask questions and seek advice
- Make masters students and faculty more aware of SILS undergraduate population
- Student organizations need to reach out to undergraduates and encourage them to join their groups (SCALA, AMLISS) if they are interested. Suggested putting “Undergraduates welcome” on their flyers.

Undergraduates need to be encouraged to participate in internships, job opportunities so that employers are aware of the skills that they have

SILS Overall concerns:

***What is being done in regards to the Innovate@Carolina challenge as set by Chancellor Thorpe?***

The Innovate@Carolina is a \$150 million dollar fundraising campaign to encourage students to think beyond the classroom in order to address a problem or issue. More information on this will be announced at University Day on October 12 and SILS will most definitely be involved in this effort.

The idea was brought up for SILS to unite toward a common goal to come up with a solution to a problem or issue and see how we can make this part of the overall learning

experience and integrate into our classes. Encourage more service learning projects or components to class projects, rather than just focusing on the theory.

Concerns were expressed regarding the grading scale and the lack of GPA for Graduate students. Some students felt that the lack of a GPA discourages students from putting in the effort into their classes and that this is discouraging to others in the class who want to learn. The undergraduate students have expressed this as well.

### ***What is being done with the results of the SILS Career Services Survey and what efforts are being made?***

SILS students, overall, are not satisfied with this especially in regards to University Career Services. SILS faculty and staff took all of the feedback very seriously and are working on acting on some of the requests. New leadership at Career Services has been a big help and they are already very involved. SILS needs probably needs to sit down with Career services and explain to them about our field and what we do. This might help assist them in finding jobs for SILS students. It would be a big help to have an Career and Placement Services person at SILS who can help students in finding jobs. Ray Angle is the new director at UCS and is willing to put together any customized workshops for SILS students.

### ***School based tuition***

In order to hire the career services person along with an extra faculty member and generate more money for need based scholarships, SILS has put in a proposal to the BOG for implementing school based tuition. All of the other professional schools on campus as well as our peer institutions have school based tuition. This extra money helps generate some revenue for the school and allows them to fund things beyond what is given to us by the state of North Carolina. 35% of the money generated would be returned to students in the form of need based scholarships, we would also hire a full time career coordinator, and a full time faculty member. School based tuition would take effect for Fall 2011.

### ***Healthy SILS***

Dr. Marshall brought up the idea of creating a Healthy SILS where we would encourage healthy living among the SILS community. This would include a supportive environment, good nutrition, exercise and support. It was suggested that we get the School of Public Health involved in this. If you are interested in becoming involved in this please talk to Dr. Marshall.

### **Graduate Student Concerns:**

#### ***Information Organization Curriculum***

INLS 520 and 521 are currently two separate classes and is this the best model for SILS.

520 is broader while 521 focuses more on actual cataloging. Library science students expressed concern about 520 and the fact that they are not learning cataloging in that course. LS students are concerned if these two courses got combined together that the cataloging aspect would be lost. The idea that one is an equal replacement for the other is not the case all and they are not equal courses. The LS students feel that 521 needs to be required for ALL library science students regardless of what track you might be taking and that taking both should be highly recommended.

***Other Curriculum issues:***

- ARM (Archives and Records Management students) may need a more specialized course that fits their needs
- Course frequency needs to be better advertised
- Students are getting mixed information from advisors and maybe faculty need to be better trained in how to do advise students
- 2 year limit makes it hard to cram in all the classes you want to take
- Feel that the theory is important but do like the practical real world experience
- Have issues with courses that are very rarely taught
- Require internships/field experience program

Student Recruitment:

***What brought you to SILS?***

- Promise that as a student they could work and gain practical hands on experience while taking classes was a big attraction
- Came and visited Manning and UNC, liked campus

***Other recruitment ideas:***

- Take better advantage of RTP, recruit people from there who want to
- Communication from SILS could be better once students are admitted
- Open house
- Better printed materials or brochures to give to people interested in program
- Minority scholarships to attract more minority students