

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
FY2022 Annual Review Narrative Survey

Unit: Information School

Section 1: Programmatic & Academic Vitality Narratives

- 1) Have you made any changes to your unit's strategic plan and/or budget process in the past year? If yes, what are 3-5 key elements of your unit's new/revised strategic plan and/or budget process? If no, please comment on the progress you've made in 3-5 key areas of your strategic plan.

We have not made any significant changes to our budget planning process. We did hold a series of budget planning meetings in the Summer to create contingency plans in case of budget cuts or reduced enrollment. We added elements to our "under construction" strategic plan. **The grand challenges of the plan continue to be focusing on leveraging information science to support a healthier planet, a stronger democracy and more informed public, and healthier, happier people.**

Our high-level goals from last year have not changed:

- **Bring the Information School together into a single location:** we have acquired bridging space (Gerberding Hall, Allen Library South), and are still working on a single location for the iSchool. These efforts have been hindered by the pandemic.
- **Expand access to our undergraduate offerings:** Our Informatics program is a very competitive major for admissions with the last admissions round only accepting 16% of applicants. We have grown our program, on our way to increasing the number of students admitted by 90-140 per year.
- **Expand access to our Master in Information Management:** We have made good progress using an OPM for launching our online MSIM program. We have already enrolled a full inaugural cohort that will start in Spring 2021.
- **Create a diversity pathway for students, faculty and staff:** On the faculty side, we have incorporated diversity statements into our faculty applications and our rubrics for evaluating candidates. On the staff side, we are also modifying our recruitment and interviewing approaches. We have appointed an Associate Dean and a Program Manager for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Our outreach to students is ongoing but has been impacted by the pandemic. We have raised funds for a number of fellowships/scholarships and a professorship to support diversity, equity and inclusion.
- **Make the Information School the top research institute in information science.** We are supporting this through internal funding to support riskier projects and to create research centers (e.g., Center for an Informed Public, and CREATE), and through improved communications of our research.
- **Capitalize on the growing recognition of the centrality of information science.** This past year has made clear the importance of information science in the most pressing problems facing society, including challenges to democracy, beliefs about the pandemic and vaccines, and the climate. While our researchers have been individually effective at contributing to solutions, there is an opportunity to leverage this widespread focus on information more broadly to support school-wide initiatives.
- **Make the Information School a great place to learn and work.** We are professionalizing our internal practices (both around faculty and staff processes) to respond to the growth over the past 20 years. We hired a new staff member responsible for business processes. We have also focused much of our efforts to improve the working and learning experience through our Covid-19 response.

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Section 8: Communication with Faculty & Student Stakeholders

Communication of your unit's annual review materials, including fiscal vitality data, narrative responses and tuition rate recommendations is an important and necessary component of the University of Washington's Annual Review process. Your responses to the questions below will be documented and included as part of the annual review materials provided to Executive Leadership of the UW.

If the meeting schedules of faculty and student leadership groups present a challenge, please make accommodations to get approval within the necessary time frame. If necessary, you may submit an update to OPB at a later date, after faculty and students have had an opportunity to review.

- 1) Please select the date that FACULTY leadership within your unit/campus was consulted and provided the opportunity to provide input as part of this budget planning exercise. If, due to scheduling difficulty, you are unable to consult with faculty leadership before the February 1, 2021 submission deadline, please select the date you are scheduled to consult with FACULTY leadership and, immediately after that date, please provide an update to Jed Bradley.

January 29, 2021

- 2) Please list a point of contact for your FACULTY leadership (name and UW email address).

Chair of the iSchool Elected Faculty Council: Bill Howe, billhowe@uw.edu

- 3) Please select the date that STUDENT leadership within your unit/campus was consulted and provided the opportunity to provide input as part of this budget planning exercise. If, due to scheduling difficulty, you are unable to consult with student leadership before the February 1, 2021 submission deadline, please select the date you are scheduled to consult with STUDENT leadership and, immediately after that date, please provide an update to Jed Bradley.

January 29, 2021

- 4) Please list a point of contact for your STUDENT leadership (name and UW email address).

The Student Leadership Council can be contacted through our Director of Student Services, Wendie Phillips (wrp@uw.edu).

- 5) Enrolled students affected by tuition rate increases should be consulted on proposed increases before proposals are finalized. Please describe when and how students were consulted and summarize the feedback they provided regarding EACH of your tuition recommendations.

The iSchool does not have any tuition rate increases included in this package. We consulted with our fee-based degree students (MLIS and MSIM programs) regarding fee-based rate increases at a Student Leadership Council meeting on November 20, 2020. They provided feedback indicating they understood and supported the rationale for the MLIS and MSIM program tuition rate increases. Those rate increases will be presented to the



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Provost by Continuum College. We will discuss tuition rates again with the student leaders on January 29.