



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

*Please replace all text in italic with appropriate information before submitting your proposal.
Your entries should be in regular (not italic) font.*

PROPOSAL TITLE: Proposal to rename the Graduate School of Library and Information Science to the School of Information Sciences

SPONSOR:

Allen Renear, Dean
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
501 E. Daniel St.
333-265-5216
renear@illinois.edu

COLLEGE CONTACT:

Allen Renear, Dean
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
501 E. Daniel St.
333-265-5216
renear@illinois.edu

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Graduate School of Library and Information Science seeks to change its name to the School of Information Sciences. Faculty in the school voted on this name change at a regularly scheduled faculty meeting on October 21, 2015. The vote was 20 for; 7 against; 2 abstentions.

JUSTIFICATION: The current name, Graduate School of Library and Information Science was approved in 1981 and is the fifth name in the school's history since its founding in 1893 as the library science program at the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago (1897 moved to Urbana as the Illinois State Library School; 1926 University of Illinois Library School; 1959 Graduate School of Library Science). For nearly two decades, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked GSLIS number one among professional schools offering master's degrees in library and information science (LIS) and we remain committed to ensuring the excellence of that degree program.

The proposed name, School of Information Sciences, is much more effective in communicating the current and anticipated scope of the research, teaching, and engagement efforts of the school as it encompasses the full range of intellectual practices around information and information institutions. While “library science” refers to work within a particular institution, “information sciences” refers to multiple forms of knowledge across institutions.

Over the past 34 years the school has undergone significant changes, including: 1) the faculty have become much more diverse in disciplinary background and research interests; 2) two new research centers (Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship; Center for Digital Inclusion) have been established; 3) teaching includes greater involvement with undergraduates, both required and elective courses in the informatics minor; 4) if approved, degree offerings are proposed to expand to include an MS in information management in addition to the current MS in library and information science; 5) since 2004 a corporate roundtable has fostered greater engagement of students and faculty in exploring information management problems and solutions with corporate partners.

GSLIS was a founding member of the iSchools organization, a collection of Information Schools dedicated to advancing the information field. These schools and colleges, have been newly created or are evolving from programs formerly focused on specific areas such as information technology, library science, informatics, information science, and more. While each individual iSchool has its own strengths and specializations, together they share a fundamental interest in the relationships between information, people, and technology. As is clear from the list of names included in the membership directory of the leading iSchools (<http://ischools.org/members/icaucus-members/>), Illinois is now one of few exceptions including “library” in the name of the school. Frequently occurring names include: School or College of Information, Information School, School or College of Information Studies, School of Information Sciences, and College of Information Sciences and Technology.

The proposal to rename the school follows broad consultation with a range of stakeholders, including GSLIS faculty, staff, current students, alumni, employers, and other leaders in libraries and other information sectors. Renaming the school will achieve several goals: 1) it will explicitly identify us in national and international contexts as a school with research and teaching strengths across the information sciences; 2) it will help us attract students with a wider range of academic and career interests; 3) it will increase visibility of our strengths to potential funders and corporate partners.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: *(Please respond to each of the following questions.)*

1) Resources

The change in school name will not require additional staffing or major expenditures. The only anticipated costs are those related to generating new supplies (e.g., letterhead) and promotional materials (website revisions, flyers and brochures) for the school and those costs can be covered under the current operating budget.

2) Resource Implications

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc. The name change will not involve changes in class size, teaching loads, or student-faculty ratio.

- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units. The name change will not affect course enrollment in other units. We are appending letters of support for this change from: Rob Rutenbar, Department Head, Computer Science; Andreas Cangelaris, Dean, College of Engineering; Jeffrey Brown, Dean, College of Business

- c. Please address the impact on the University Library. The name change has no anticipated impact on the University Library. We are appending a letter of support from John Wilkin, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian.

- d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)
No anticipated impact.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: upon approval

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG: Name of School in catalog should be: School of Information Sciences

CLEARANCES:

Signatures:



October 22nd, 2016

Unit Representative:

Date:

Provost Representative:

Date:

Educational Policy Committee Representative:

Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

University Library

Office of Dean of Libraries
and University Librarian
230 Main Library, MC-522
1408 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801



October 13, 2015

Allen Renear, Dean
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
501 E. Daniel St.
M/C 493
Champaign, IL 61820-6211

Dear Dean Renear:

Thank you for providing the University Library with the opportunity to review the Proposal to rename the Graduate School of Library and Information Science to the School of Information Sciences. Based upon the proposal that we received, we conclude that there will be no impact on existing library resources.

On a personal and professional note, I want to add that I am excited by the prospect of a more effective name that will communicate the current and anticipated scope of the research, teaching, engagement efforts and excellence of the school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Wilkin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John P Wilkin
Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Engineering
Office of the Dean
306 Engineering Hall, MC-266
1308 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801



October 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with excitement that I write this letter to express my strongest support of the proposed renaming of the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences (GSLIS).

Over the past several years, in response to the escalating importance of information sciences to creating, curating, managing, and applying knowledge in every aspect of our daily lives, our colleagues in GSLIS have been fully engaged in growing and diversifying the breadth of their educational, research and programmatic activities in a manner that meet the demands of information sciences at the level of excellence that has set them apart and at the top of their field. Their current name, GSLIS, is simply too narrow to capture the richness of their programs and to communicate their stature as a top program for information sciences. The proposed new name, "School of Information Sciences," is most fitting and long overdue.

To borrow the words of Shakespeare's Juliet: What's in a name? A lot! That which we call Information Sciences, by any other name would fail to convey the intellectual breadth, the aspirations, and the promise of a top 21st-century information sciences program.

I am in full support of the new name of "School of Information Sciences," and I look forward to its future success and its contribution to growing the reputation of our Campus as the best place in the world for information sciences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Cangellaris', written over a horizontal line.

Andreas Cangellaris
Dean, College of Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Department of Computer Science

201 North Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801-2302 USA



8 October 2015

Senate Committee on Educational Policy
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
320 Morrill Hall
Urbana, IL 61802

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposed name change for the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), to the “School of Information Sciences (SIS).” I am in strong concurrence with the leadership of the School (and, I believe, the majority of its faculty) that this is a change both long overdue, and vital to the future growth and success of the school. I currently serve as the Head of the Department of Computer Science, in the College of Engineering, here on the Urbana camps. My colleague in GSLIS, Dean Allen Renear, has kept me apprised of the goals for this proposed name for some time, and I’m extremely pleased to see these efforts appear close to fruition.

GSLIS is one of only a handful of LIS schools which have not moved forward with a name that reflects the honest center-of-gravity of the discipline in the 21st century. While acknowledging libraries as vital components of the intellectual life of local communities, society in general, and all academic institutions, from K-12 to higher-ed, one must still acknowledge that “the library” is simply no longer the primary modality for the dissemination, curation, exploitation, and preservation of knowledge. One must also note the fact that the cohort of peers in which GLSI resides is, today, universally called “I Schools”. Information, in all its varied forms and modalities, is the substance of GSLIS’s core mission. When I look at the key peers in my Computer Science (CS) cohort, I see this fact amply demonstrated. Washington, Berkeley, Michigan, Cornell, etc., all have strong schools of information or information sciences. *And* these peers also have strong CS units. Indeed, the ways in which Computer Science units and Information Sciences units coexist and collaborate are well understood today. We focus more on the quantitative side of the discipline, building core tools and technologies. I-schools focus more on the intersection of social science and information, i.e., what happens when people and organizations create, disseminate, consume, curate, exploit, etc., information. There are well-understood synergies here, and in those areas, we currently have several faculty with cross-affiliate appointments between GSLIS and CS. I have no concerns about deleterious overlaps; it’s important for CS that the UIUC “I School” be a strong and internationally competitive partner.

I will note, for the record, that this is not the first time I’ve reviewed these issues. My Ph.D. is from U. Michigan, and my adviser, Dan Atkins was the founding Dean of the Michigan School of Information, which went through exactly this same sort of name transformation, before undergoing a period of robust expansion in size, scope, visibility and impact. I am thus intimately familiar with the arguments surrounding the issue. In the end, an “I School” was the right thing for Michigan – which made this change rather boldly 1996. Roughly two decades later, this is the right thing for Illinois.

I strongly support the name change to the School of Information Sciences. I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues in SIS, as they work to advance the university's coverage of vital topics across the fast-moving landscape of information sciences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob A. Rutenbar", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rob A. Rutenbar

Abel Bliss Professor and Head
Department of Computer Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Business

Office of the Dean
260 Wohlers Hall
1206 South Sixth Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6980



Date: October 13, 2015

To: Allen Renear, Dean, Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences

From: Jeff Brown, Josef and Margot Lakonishok Professor in Business and Dean, and William G. Karnes Professor of Finance, College of Business

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Brown', written over the 'From:' line.

Re: Proposed Name Change to "School of Information Sciences"

I am writing to express my full support for the proposal to change the name of GSLIS to the School of Information Sciences. This new name will better position the school for the future, particularly as the school works to become more programmatically diverse.

For perspective, this change is reminiscent of my own College's name change over a decade ago from the "College of Commerce and Business Administration" to the "College of Business." As GSLIS' communication to their alumni and students about the name changes suggests, "names matter," and our name change has served us very well. I have full confidence that the proposed name change will serve the School of Information Sciences equally well and I am pleased that a large majority of faculty within GSLIS support this change.

This proposal has no direct implications for the College of Business budgets or staffing.

The College of Business looks forward to possible future collaborations with the School of Information Sciences in areas related to the intersection of information sciences and business analytics.

In summary, this proposal has my full support.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.16.30

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



October 23, 2015

Bettina Francis, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Francis:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science to change their name to the "School of Information Sciences."

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Martensen
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: A. Renear
C. Hopper
L. Smith