Response to IST Program Review
IST Faculty
April 30, 2017

We the IS&T faculty sincerely appreciate the great efforts the external review team has made in helping us identify our program's strengths and weaknesses. We particularly appreciate the many great recommendations the review team has made to help us improve the program. In the subsequent sections, we provide our responses to the recommendations from the review team.

A. Mission Statement

1. To better align the mission statement of the IS&T program with that of the Goddard School, we have unanimously agreed to remove the phrase of "*effective team work*" from the IS&T mission statement. The new mission statement of the IS&T program now reads:

> "*The Information Systems and Technologies degree prepares job-ready graduates by providing outstanding instruction in current information technologies, integrating practical business and technical knowledge, and promoting strong communication skills.*"

2. Along with the change stated above, we will revise and utilize the exit survey to investigate our current measurable learning outcomes; those learning outcomes will be revised in Fall 2017.

3. As for the learning assessment, the college also struggled with the scores in the MFT assessment in Spring 2016. Since the test was administered in BSAD 4780 sections by a new faculty who had not previously administered the MFT assessment, scores in all discipline areas have dropped below the 80th percentile benchmark. To resolve those issues, the college is closely working with the faculty of BSAD 4780 to closely monitor administering the assessment. In addition, the college has decided to develop and execute its own test in Spring 2017 by collecting questions from core courses of each discipline area.

4. The IS&T program plans to utilize a couple of IS&T courses (i.e., IST 4600 and IST 4730) to assess whether the students have effectively learned the key concepts of knowledge. For example, in IST 4600, the faculty will assess the percentage of the assigned projects completed by individual student, arranging an 80th or higher percentile as a threshold of success.

B. Curriculum

5. We are now working with the department of Computer Science to develop a minor program in Data Science. The college ad-hoc committee is also working on offering the Business Analytics and/or the Enterprise Systems courses to GSBE students of most discipline areas, with the anticipated goal of making the Business Analytics class required for non-Economics majors in lieu of QUAN 2400 (Calculus). Those implementations are expected in Fall 2018.

6. As for teaching Python instead of Java in our programming course (IST2110), we recognize the fact that Java is still the dominant business programming language in the industry. However,

we will be open to suggestions from both the exit survey and our advisory board (which is expected to reorganize in Fall 2018), and will make changes based upon recommended made by these stakeholders.

C. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment

7. We will update the evidence of learning assessment in Fall 2017 to reflect current IS&T course offerings, with an understanding that learning outcomes outside of the IS&T program are currently evaluated at the GSBE program level.

8. We used to have a specific IS&T capstone course in previous years. Due to faculty resource limitations, we have merged the prior capstone course with the System Analysis and Design course under IST 4730. We will immediately be advising our students to take IST4730 in the last semester as a capstone course. In addition, we plan to require our students to take the CAPM certification in Fall 2017 in conjunction with completion of the IST 4730 course, which will be designed to deliver the content to help students achieve an 85% prep rate. The IS&T Program plans to support a certain portion of the CAPM certification testing fee for students in need of financial assistance.

D. Academic Advising, Faculty, and Support (Staff, Administration, Facilities, Equipment, and Library)

9. We believe the IS&T Program has been well supported by the GSBE college staff and will work more closely with the academic advisors to supplement the content that IS&T students must know upon admission to the major. All incoming GSBE students are required to take BSAD 2899, and we will request the college's academic advisors consider arranging an advising meeting as a required component of the course.

10. We plan to work with the college's new marketing director in developing more effective mechanisms for publicizing the IS&T Program, and pursue placement of a marketing board in a visible area of the college's Wattis building.

11. Regarding hiring an additional IS&T faculty, we appreciate the recommendation. We strongly agree with the review team's recommendation pertaining to the hiring of additional IS&T faculty and hope the dean will take it under consideration.

12. In anticipation of a likely division of the Business Administration Department (where IS&T and Supply Chain Management programs are already together), should a new department be created consisting of only IST and SCM, we agree and appreciate the recommendation regarding a possible rotating department chair arrangement and hope the dean would take the recommendation into consideration.

G. Relationships with the External Communities

13. We have unanimously agreed to rebrand the IS&T Program and change its name from Information Systems & Technologies (IS&T) to Management Information Systems (MIS).

Following our unanimous decision, the IS&T Program has already started the academic process to make this change.

14. We will pursue a closer working relationship with the college's Director of Career Services who maintains a fairly complete list of past and current students in each discipline of the college, with the goal of making better use of relationships with alumni and current students in recruiting new students.

15. Prior to merging the former IS&T Department with the Department of Business Administration in 2010, IS&T had a functioning advisory board with the IS&T Department chair as the liaison between the board and the IS&T Department. After the merger and especially after the former IS&T Department chair was released from his administrative duties, most advisory board members resigned and the board was dissolved. We plan to reorganize our advisory board with 8 to 10 people by reaching out the previous advisory board members and the IS&T alumni, and expect the board to start functioning by the end of Fall 2018.