School of Library and Information Science
Student Activities Fees

In November 2007, students in the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) were sent a message via the School’s student listserv asking for input on how the windfall of Student Activities Fees should be spent over the next three years. Before sharing the results, it is important to understand the culture of the SLIS student body.

- All of the students are at the Masters degree level.
- Most work full or part time and take classes on a part time basis.
- Most are women, and many also have children, husbands, and/or aging parents to care for.
- Classes are taken Monday through Thursday night or during the day on Friday (Friday Option), Saturday, or Sunday (two classes have been offered on Sunday afternoon).
- Many take a large number, although not all, of their courses via VIC (Virtual Indiana Community two-way audio/video distance learning technology) or as web-based classes.
- Those who take the VIC classes reside in or near Gary, South Bend, Fort Wayne, or New Albany, Indiana.
- All students must come to Indianapolis to take at least some courses to earn the Master of Library Science degree.

With that culture in mind, it was not surprising that a vast majority of the students did not respond. The eleven students who did provide input offered the following:

- Develop a series of Friday Brown Bag sessions with guest speakers (six)
- Videotape the sessions in digital format and put that on the website to reach the distance students and others unable to attend. (one)
- Support student attendance at national conferences. (six)
- Provide start up funds for student interest groups. (one)

Plan for Student Activities Funds, 2008-2010

1. SLIS will offer a monthly Friday Forum brown bag series with speakers. When possible, these sessions will be digitally recorded and loaded on the SLIS website to reach a broader audience. Students will be invited to bring their lunches to most events; however, pizza will be provided on occasion. Sessions will include:

- Occasional outside speakers with national recognition. This could include authors, librarians, researchers, and professionals in the information industry. Their presentations could be in collaboration with another school, agency, or organization, such as an author visit coordinated with the School of Education, a local school, and/or a local public library.
• Tips to get a position. A presentation on job application and interview tips will be scheduled each spring. Time will also be given for students to have their resumes reviewed.
• Career program. Alumni representing school, public, academic, and special libraries will discuss the expectations of their positions in an annual fall session.
• Student presentations. Students who have presentations accepted at conferences, who have been recognized by a member of the faculty for a particularly exceptional class presentation, or who wish to share information from library-related conference attendance or other experiences will be invited to participate in the Friday Forum.
• SLIS faculty research. Faculty members from the School will be asked to repeat presentations given at conferences for our students who were not able to attend the event.
• An annual presentation by the system-wide Dean of the School of Library and Information Science.

2. Students with presentations accepted at conferences (e.g., poster sessions, concurrent sessions, co-presentations) can apply for support to attend conferences within the United States. Support could include costs associated with conference registration, travel, and housing.

3. Students interested in developing special interest groups related to library and information science (e.g., Wiki, Blog, Podcast User Group; Young Adult Book Group; Indiana Library Federation student chapter) can submit a proposal and budget for start up support for their group.

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