ISP Faculty Meeting

October 3, 2017

Kevin Ashley Peter Brusilovsky Gregory Cooper Rosta Farzan

Harry Hochheiser Adriana Kovashka Michael Lewis Diane Litman

Shandong Wu

* Transition to SCI – updates
  + Don Bonidie will discuss staffing in SCI as it relates to ISP –

Previously he met with Dr Litman to address her concerns with staffing for ISP.

Any concerns can be addressed to Michele or also to Don ([dmb@cs.pitt.edu](mailto:dmb@cs.pitt.edu))

Don wants to be sure that ISP is going to get the same staffing and support as the other departments in the new school.

He wants to be sure that ISP still has the research support for the money that comes by way of DBMI.

* + Admissions/applications by way of GATS and Apply Yourself. Will be managed the same way it is in CS, IS, etc. Students will be getting the same support and opportunities as the rest of SCI.
  + It is important for the students and faculty in ISP to have the same support. One person to be the “point” person for ISP. Going forward that is going to remain Michele. Michele is tasked with doing the triage, basically knowing who to send someone to take care of different situations.
  + ISP will be managed no different than any of the other departments.

If you see ISP being left out of announcements, emails, etc please let us know so that we can rectify the situation. There are new mailing lists that should include everyone.

Dr Cohen has a leadership team that meets every other week and Dr Litman is now attending those meetings. One of the things they are starting to look for are volunteers to assist on the committees.

* ISP 30 event – March 16, 2018
  + Martha Pollack is the keynote speaker. She is a former director and is now the President of Cornell.
  + Diane worked with Jeya and Khushboo and started gathering ideas.
  + Goals of the event: create visibility of the program, make it fun and interesting for the alumni as well.
  + Student poster session and industry, sort of like CS Day. The students wanted the poster session as a way to show their research and interact with the alumni and other industry people. Diane asked for suggestions of industry people, if anyone has any connections to email them to her.
  + Friday is the main day of the event. Suggestion to have a Director’s Panel. We identified the strengths in the program and have a session for each one. External keynote based on the suggestions of the student’s poll. Milos knows Peter Ng from grad school, Diane knows Peter Norvick.
  + Sessions devoted to NLP, AI in Medicine and if we have time there could be more. Ask one alum to be in charge of each session and would be in charge of organizing that session.
  + Mike Lewis suggested Steve Casner (the first ISP student?)
  + Diane suggested trying to find a way to fund the main participants. There was a great deal of brainstorming concerning how many people would be speaking and what we would be covering. Possible to get funding from LRDC and also maybe from Dr. Cohen.
  + Khushboo wanted to have a video presentation created. The original quote was astronomical but that company was released. The next group gave a quote of $2000-$3000 which is much more reasonable and plans are moving forward.
* New students – admissions for spring 2018 and fall 2018
  + 2 students admitted: one from Iran who has been sitting in with Peter’s group and the other has been working with Shandong (?)
  + We have never done spring admissions (MS or PhD) we are not going to do an admissions committee for them, they would have to be self funded. If anyone sees or knows of someone who is a good candidate please let Dr. Litman know. At the time of the meeting there was one MS application. If you are interested in looking at the applications, please send your user ID to Michele and she will give you access in GATS.
* New mentoring program
  + Will need to be voted on.
  + Senior graduate students will be mentoring the new students, helping them to get settled in.
* Replacement Mellon Fellowship Ideas

2 students to receive

New name needed

Definitely have it for this year. ISP 30 was suggested for the new name. We need to find a name that means something to those outside of the school.

SCI has a plan for moving forward with fellowships, new building.

* Industry Board
* New Publications Resource
  + Khushboo has been scraping Google Scholar and setting up a feed to the ISP social media sites.
  + Please send any exciting news to Khushboo ([kmt81@pitt.edu](mailto:kmt81@pitt.edu)) so that it can also be posted.
* Curriculum updates/changes
  + NLP is not being taught at all.
  + Only Diane/Milos are available to teach AI courses.
  + Knowledge Representation has not been taught for many years, discussion was held about removing it and replacing it with Adriana’s Vision course.
  + Adding Adriana’s vision course which was cross listed last year.
  + Very limited course selections.
  + Kayhan is teaching a Machine Learning at CMU and it was discussed that there needs to be some seats made available/guaranteed for the Pitt ISP/CS students.
    - Suggestion was made to send an email to the ISP grads and see if we can get an idea of how many people might be interested in taking the course and then a plan could be formulated as to how to get those seats in the CMU course.
  + Perhaps it might be possible to ask about allowing the senior ISP students to teach a course, thus addressing multiple issues at the same time: ISP students do not get the opportunity to teach, there are no TA slots available for them.
  + It was brought up to possibly ask Dr Cohen to teach a seminar course...as an adjunct…much laughter was heard after this suggestion.

The suggestion was made to make Dr. Cohen a Secondary Faculty member of SCI. There is no process at this time for the secondary appointments. Diane and Greg Cooper met with Dr. Cohen about staffing.

Dr Cohen floated the idea of having an ISP Undergraduate Program. Don’t know if it would be part of ISP or a specialization in another area. Dr Cooper does not feel it would be feasible the way that things are currently set up due to the interdisciplinary nature of the program.

* Faculty Recruiting
* Staff Re-organization
* Poll for students, what courses they would like to see added to the curriculum.