

## **EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL FOR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY**

The External Review Panel (ERP) appointed by the ALA Committee on Accreditation (ALA/COA) is currently in the process of preparing for our visit to the Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the River Forest campus.

### **Purpose of Accreditation**

The purpose of accreditation is set out in the introduction to the [\*Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library & Information Studies 1992\*](#):

Accreditation assures the educational community, the general public, and other agencies or organizations that an institution or program (a) has clearly defined and educationally appropriate objectives, (b) maintains conditions under which their achievement can reasonably be expected, (c) is in fact accomplishing them substantially, and (d) can be expected to continue to do so.

Accreditation serves as a mechanism for quality assessment and quality enhancement with quality defined as the effective utilization of resources to achieve appropriate educational objectives. (*Standards 1992:1*)

### **External Review Panel Activities**

The [External Review Panel](#) serves on behalf of ALA/COA as part of the [process for continued accreditation](#) of the Master of Library and Information Science program at Dominican University under the 1992 *Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies*. The [comprehensive review process](#), which has been underway for over a year, includes a self assessment by the school that has resulted in a *Program Presentation* sent to the panel members, sent to the members of COA, and made available to the constituents of the School in the GSLIS Office. During our visit on campus we will seek to clarify information, gather additional data, and observe the program delivery in its setting. Activities while on campus will include

- interviews with GSLIS faculty, university administrators, students, alumni, and employers;
- observation of the facilities of the School;
- visits to classes; and
- review of documents the School has used as evidence in preparing the *Program Presentation* that are not available in Appendices to the document.

We look forward to meeting many of you during our time on campus, which will be March 29 – April 1, 2008. In the time between now and our on-site visit, we will be observing online classes and web components of onsite classes and will be contacting some of you who will not be on campus during that time to gather your comments concerning your experience with the Master of Library and Information Science program

as students, alumni, employers, or faculty. In general, we will be asking you to comment on such questions as

- how the program is meeting your needs,
- what kinds of support and assistance you have received,
- how you are involved in the planning for and evaluation of the program
- what expectations you have for the program in the future.

### **External Review Panel Members**

Four of the ERP members will be on campus and two will participate from their home sites. The panel members are listed below. Where available, we have linked the members to our home pages or those of our employers and invite you to learn more about us there. We are also listing phone numbers and email addresses, should you want to contact us individually.

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### **Next Steps in the Process**

After our visit to campus, the panel members will draft a report of our findings, which will be sent to the School by April 21, 2008. The School will then specify any needed corrections of fact in the report (by April 28), after which the final report will be completed and sent to the School and to the ALA Committee on Accreditation (by May 5, 2008). The School then has the opportunity to respond in writing to the report (by May 12), with the response also going to the ALA/COA. During the ALA Conference in Anaheim, on June 28, 2008, Dean Roman, on behalf of the School, and June Lester, on behalf of the ERP, will meet with the Committee on Accreditation to answer any questions that committee members may have. The COA will then make the [decision on accreditation](#) and within ten days will send the Decision Document to both the Dean and to the President of the University.

### **Thanks**

We appreciate the assistance of Dean Roman in helping us to provide this introduction to our purpose and work. We look forward to being part of this program review and to hearing from the GSLIS community.