ATTACHMENT 5: REVISED MISSION AND GOALS

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Revised and reaffirmed 11/17/2010

In support of the University of Rhode Island’s mission and the Harrington School of Communication and Media, the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies exercises leadership in the global information age through research, service, and the preparation of knowledgeable and ethical professionals who can serve the library and information needs of a diverse society.

PLANNING AND EVALUATION (GOAL ONE):
Support the School’s vision, values, and mission through a strong planning and evaluation structure that includes regular input from students, graduates, practitioners, and other stakeholders.

1.1 State program objectives in terms of student learning objectives, reviewing and updating the GSLIS Educational Outcomes Statement in context of current ALA and URI documents and input from GSLIS constituencies.
   1.1.1 Evaluate student outcomes.
1.2 Plan for successful implementation of the new Harrington School of Communication.
1.3 Provide systematic processes for regular program review and revision.
   1.3.1 Integrate planning into cyclical accreditation processes.
1.4 Review, revise, and extend the School’s three-year strategic plan through 2013-2014, positioning the program to meet constituent needs and aligning it with university priorities.
1.5 Review the funding needs of GSLIS and develop and implement strategies to increase funding levels.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM (GOAL TWO)
Graduates will have the knowledge and skills to take leadership roles in the workforce of the future, developing new ways and technologies to receive, store, mediate, archive, and transmit information in support of their communities’ work, learning, leisure, and public discourse.

2.1 Instill professional attitudes toward scholarship, research, and service; and instill a commitment to professional ethics.
2.2 Provide a strong foundation in library and information studies through a coherent core curriculum covering the ALA Core Competences.
2.3 Supplement the core courses with electives that support the career objectives of students in libraries, information agencies, and other settings.
2.4 Ensure opportunities for application of knowledge and development of skills through supervised practicums and professional field experiences.
2.5 Develop and maintain a balance of face-to-face, online, and blended courses, to enhance the practice of multiple communication skills.
2.6 Foster an intellectual atmosphere of active learning, collaboration, and collegiality within each course.
2.7 Augment student planning with advising and mentoring as a learning vehicle.
   2.7.1 Assist students in developing coherent programs of study.
2.8 Enhance and increase interdisciplinary courses and programs, especially in collaboration with the Harrington School of Communication and Media, the School of Education, and the University Libraries.
2.9 Build global and multicultural competence into the curriculum.
2.10 Develop competence and flexibility in emerging technologies.
2.11 Provide students with opportunities for individualized study and collaborative projects, research, and publications.

FACULTY (GOAL THREE):
Provide a dedicated, talented, and diverse faculty who contribute to the profession, the academic community, and society through teaching, research, and service.

3.1 The GSLIS will work with URI administration and Office of Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, and Diversity to recruit, retain and assess diverse full-time faculty members committed to providing the highest quality in teaching, research, outreach, and service.

3.2 The GSLIS will work with the College of Continuing Education to recruit, retain, and assess per-course instructors whose high-quality instruction supplements the expertise of the full-time faculty.

3.3 The GSLIS will provide support for faculty teaching, research, outreach, and service furthering GSLIS goals.

3.4 Each faculty member will maintain an active and balanced program of teaching, research, outreach, and service, consistent with guidelines in the AAUP Contract, the University Manual, and the November 2004 GSLIS Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure.

STUDENTS (GOAL FOUR):
Recruit and retain a diverse body of highly motivated and academically qualified students who exhibit openness, creativity, and flexibility.

4.1 Increase financial aid.

4.2 Review recruitment strategies.

4.3 Provide current and prospective students with clear and useful information about the School and the University.

4.4 Maintain fair and equitable policies in recruitment and retention of students.

4.5 Provide career information for students and potential students.

4.6 Involve students in the governance of the school.

4.7 Encourage and support student membership and participation in professional organizations

CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT (GOAL FIVE):
Encourage a culture of mutual respect and collaboration in learning, research, and service, and create an environment that values contributions to the profession and society.

5.1 Incorporate high ethical standards and a commitment to information access into the GSLIS program.

5.2 Provide appropriate physical and virtual environments and technological support for productive learning and teaching.

5.3 Provide a supportive environment for students from diverse backgrounds at all delivery locations.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH (GOAL SIX):
Serve in local, regional, national, and international academic and professional communities and cultivate mutually supportive relationships, especially within the New England region.

6.1 Encourage collaborations and service through faculty participation in URI committees and in professional organizations and projects.

6.2 Support the continued professional growth of students, graduates, and members of the state and regional library community by offering continuing education activities.

6.3 Provide opportunities for students to give library and information service to diverse communities.

6.3.1 Support the outreach activities of student chapters of ALA and SLA.