



**Interdisciplinary Graduate Program Advisory Board  
January 29, 2013**

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Advisory Board, a governance board of the Council on Graduate Studies, met from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 29, in 3108 Blair Hall.

Members Attending: Dean Ornes, Dean Jackman, Dean Augustine, Associate Dean Snyder, Dr. Gaines, Dr. Cornebise, Dr. Bates, Dr. Liu, Dr. Frank, Ben Rienbolt (staff support)

**Master of Science in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS)**

Dr. Gaines and Dr. Cornebise provided an update on the MS in GIS. The program is working to establish an agreement with the National Geospatial Advisory Committee to increase recruitment prospects and efforts are underway for delivering coursework to these additional students. The GIS prefix has been established and the Professional Science Master's degree (PSM) is pending. Partnerships have been made with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Illinois Department of Transportation for purposes of securing possible internship sites for the PSM and exploring grant opportunities, as well as to attract prospective students. Special topics courses within GIS provide faculty outside of the program with teaching and instruction opportunities. Capstone internship opportunities continue to broaden as interest in program increases.

**Master of Science in Sustainable Energy**

Dr. Liu provided an update on the MS in Sustainable Energy. IBHE approval has been received for the program and paperwork has been filed for the dual degree program of Technology/Sustainable Energy. Currently, five students are studying their practicum at the Renewable Energy Center. This has proven to be an outstanding experience due to the distinctiveness of the center. Dr. Liu is working in conjunction with the Graduate School to create a video that will amplify the qualities of the program and showcase its uniqueness. The program is welcoming students from various academic backgrounds and disciplines to enhance the learning experience. The University of Illinois is a partner on a newly funded bio-ash project and other opportunities are becoming available as well for students to engage in research.

**Master of Arts in Gerontology**

Dr. Frank provided an update on the MA in Gerontology. She discussed the new special topics course that includes a weekend experience in a nursing facility from a patient's perspective. This opportunity has enabled students to gain insight into specific needs while engaging with the older population. Plans to establish prefix GER are progressing. More prospects are developing for faculty/student research teams. Professional placement of program graduates has increased substantially due in part to internship opportunities for students. Plans to showcase video series of life review narratives in Fall 2013.

**Master of Science in Health Care Administration**

Dr. Bates reported on progress with the MS in Health Care Administration. He explained that the program is continuing its discussion of the degree, which includes examination of expected learning outcomes and assessment methods. Potential exists for an eventual PSM opportunity for the program

as well.

### **Concluding Discussion**

The meeting concluded with an informal discussion that included renaming the acronym from IGP to IDGP to avoid future confusion with the title of Internal Governing Policies. Dejan Magoc was added to the members list for his involvement with Health Studies.

### **Next Meeting**

Dean Augustine reported that the Board will hold its next meeting in September in **3108 Blair Hall - Date and Time TBD**. He asked program leaders to call any concerns to his attention that should be on the September meeting agenda.

C: Council on Graduate Studies  
Provost Lord