

**UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, RÍO PIEDRAS CAMPUS  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES**



**Strategic Plan to Address the Key Challenges 2008/2009  
to 2010/2011**

<b>Standard</b>	<b>General Objectives</b>	<b>Steps taken and to be pursued</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Calendar</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Achievements and Areas needing Attention</b>
<b>Standard I: Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives</b>	<p>Analyze the external and internal forces having an impact on the Program, in order to maintain responsiveness to social, educational, and industrial needs.</p> <p>Maintain continuing efforts for the re-accreditation of the School</p>	<p>Continue annual revision of the School's Plan</p> <p>Continue the implementation of the School's Assessment Plan for ongoing improvement of all the</p>	<p>Director and Faculty members will revise annually the School's Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Director and Faculty</p>		<p>Changes proposed resulting from evaluation and planning</p> <p>School's Program re-accredited</p> <p>Areas of the Program to be strengthen and improved</p>	<p>An analysis of external forces having an impact on the field has taken a faculty committee to work on with a revamping of the program to offer the MIS with two areas of emphasis: Library and Information Science and Knowledge Management.</p>

		<p>areas of the Program</p> <p>Complete the reports to be submitted to COA every six months.</p>	Director and Faculty			<p>After the certification of re-accreditation on June 2008, the statistical and narrative report stating our achievements, from June to November 2008 were submitted to COA. The Annual Statistical Report was accepted. The narrative report was not accepted since objectives were not phrased according to learning outcomes.</p>
<b>Standard VI: Physical Facilities and Resources</b>	<p>Expand and improve its space and physical facilities.</p> <p>Expand access to its physical facilities during the nights and on weekends.</p>	<p>Complete the remodeling process of the facilities including a videoconferencing area and the revamping of the Technicians area.</p> <p>Provide an independent access to the School's facilities for students, Faculty and Administrative personnel.</p>	<p>Director and Administrative Assistant</p> <p>Director and Administrative Assistant</p>		<p>Additional space in use.</p> <p>Access to the School when the Library Building is closed.</p>	<p>Plans for the relocation of the School in a more accessible area of the José M. Lázaro Building must be continued during academic year 2009-2010. The School's present and future space needs were included in a report submitted to Central Administration</p>

	<p>Provide information and technology resources to comply with their academic and administrative responsibilities.</p> <p>Work more closely with the GSIST Library to support its effective development.</p>	<p>Continued support is needed for computer repair and updating of hardware and software:</p> <p>Revise and implement the Technology Plan.</p> <p>Submitting external proposals to obtain additional funds.</p> <p>Working projects for the community under Intramural Practice Plan.</p> <p>The Joint Faculty/Library Committee will continue to work in improving library services and resources.</p>	<p>Director, Faculty and administrative personnel</p> <p>Director (School and Library), and Faculty/Library Committee</p>		<p>Sufficient and well maintained information technology and resources.</p> <p>Student and Faculty evidence satisfaction with improved library services and resource.</p>	<p>some time ago. It stressed the requirement for an independent external access to the School.</p> <p>Institutional funds have been used to update the existing School's technology. New equipment and software have been acquired for the whole School, including administrative areas.</p> <p>According to the students' survey, they are satisfied with the GSIST library services.</p>
<b>Standard IV: Students</b>	<p>Develop a propitious environment that will attract candidates with the desired characteristics to ensure high levels of quality in the</p>	<p>Strengthen student services such as academic advising, job orientation and financial aid.</p>	<p>Director, Faculty and Students Officer.</p>		<p>Number of students requesting admittance to the program and the quality of students admitted.</p>	<p>Since the School increased the points required to be obtained from applicants in the Graduate Admittance Test from 450 to 500. The quality of</p>

	program.					<p>students admitted to the Program has incremented.</p> <p>The School admits less than 50% of applicants to its Master in Information Sciences.</p> <p>The number of foreign students in the program has increased from 4 to 9. This is mainly due to the student assistantship provided by the DEGI.</p>
	Provide mechanisms for the students participation in all aspects of the program, including formative and summative evaluation.	Continue the implementation of the Program Assessment Plan in which students have a very active role participating in focus groups, survey questionnaires and exit interviews.	Director, the Assessment Team and the Admission Committee		Student participating in focus groups, surveys and exit interviews.	The Program Assessment Plan has continued to be implemented at the School. A survey was done among first year students and a focus group was done related to the quality of distance education courses. In addition, exit interviews with graduates continue to be conducted.

						<p>The information elicited through assessments are to be discussed with the Faculty to improve identified limitations.</p>
	<p>Stimulate students' involvement in professional associations and other continuing education activities related to the field, in and outside of Puerto Rico.</p>	<p>Additional strategies for student involvement in professional association activities and other continuing education activities need to be developed and implemented.</p>	<p>Director, Faculty members.</p>		<p>Increase in the number of students participating in professional activities and continuing education activities.</p>	<p>The School has contributed part of the funds needed by students to participate in ACURIL, International Law Association and ALA.</p>
	<p>Stimulate student research publications and creative work</p>	<p>Faculty need to work on research articles with students who obtain a superior grade in their thesis or research project.</p>	<p>Faculty and students</p>		<p>Number of articles published by students with faculty collaboration.</p>	<p>Under the mentorship of a faculty member, a group of students actively participate in the Students Interest Group for ACURIL. Its presentation has been a great success.</p> <p>Students and Faculty are publishing articles based on thesis and</p>

	Provide a variety of educational experiences that will allow for students the application of theory into practice.	Provide fieldwork in local libraries and information centers in Puerto Rico and other parts of the World.	Director and Faculty member coordinating internship project.		Number of students participating in fieldwork and their evaluation.	<p>research projects in <i>Simbiosis</i>.</p> <p>Students graduating from the School Librarian Certificate worked on their field work experiences in public schools around the Island.</p> <p>Students have been working voluntarily in Enlace, the community project in Rio Piedras.</p>
<b>Standard V: Administration and Financial Support</b>	<p>Maintain and increase the quality of all aspects of the program including: Curriculum, Faculty, Students' services</p> <p>Resources and physical facilities.</p> <p>Administration and financial support.</p>	The School's Program Assessment Plan is contributing to obtain the input from the Program's constituency.	Director and School's Assessment Team.		<p>Analysis of assessment results and integration of recommendations for program improvements.</p> <p>Ongoing School Assessment Process</p>	<p>Since 2008/2009 two graduate students have been working with two faculty members to ensure that the program is continued effectively.</p> <p>All aspects of the program are being assessed through surveys, such as the one on satisfaction, and exit interviews.</p>

	<p>Recruitment of an Assistant Director and Student Advisor is needed.</p>	<p>Request recruitment for this academic year.</p>	<p>Director and Faculty</p>			<p>The areas of weakness are discussed with the faculty and strategies are decided to improve them.</p>
		<p>Request additional funds needed from University authorities. Submit external proposals. Develop new external service offerings through the Intramural Practice Plan.</p>	<p>Director and Faculty</p>			<p>A new evaluation instrument has been designed for the distance education offering. Results will be seen this semester.</p>
	<p>Obtain the necessary fiscal resources to assure the adequate functioning of the Program</p>	<p>Continue the efforts to achieve an equal salary scale for the Faculty compared to that of the School of Planning.</p>	<p>Director and Publication and Marketing Committee Members</p>		<p>Change in Faculty salary scale</p>	<p>An Assistant Director need to be recruited to assist with assessment and reaccreditation processes.</p>
	<p>Ensure that job descriptions reflect the new professional profile of the School's new curriculum.</p>	<p>Develop strategies leading to a change in job descriptions and requirements for librarians and other information professionals in various local governmental agencies.</p>				<p>Since academic year 1999-2000 the School has been very successful in obtaining additional funds from the Campus and from external funds to support its</p>

						programs. Efforts must be strengthened.
<b>Cont. Standard V: Administration and Financial Support</b>	<p>Enhance the public image of the School as it relates to the new curriculum.</p> <p>Continue efforts to stimulate work on joint projects with other faculties, educational institutions and professional associations to maintain the School's leadership in the field at the local and regional level, as well as to promote the School's visibility at the national and international level.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a Public relations and Marketing Plan for the School.</p> <p>Identify options and strategies for new joint projects:</p> <p>Continue to implement projects involving diverse academic units.</p> <p>Continue to identify, develop and implement twining projects involving local and international partners</p>	<p>Director, faculty and administrative personnel.</p> <p>Director, faculty and OERI</p> <p>Director and faculty</p>		<p>Image of the School identified in the media.</p> <p>Projects to be conducted with other academic units, educational Institutions and professional associations, in a outside Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Increase use of technology campus wide and integration of information skills to the curriculum</p> <p>Information and Service Center in Río Piedras functioning.</p>	Select a professor to assist with the marketing activities of the School.



					<p>Identify new community projects to be involved with.</p> <p>Develop twinning projects with museums and archives.</p> <p>Develop a Library and other information units Digital Institute</p> <p>Design other distance education School Librarian Certificate Projects in the Caribbean</p>	
<b>Standard VI: Physical Facilities and Resources</b>	Expand and improve its space and physical facilities.	Complete the remodeling process of the facilities including a videoconferencing area and the revamping of the Technicians area.	Director and Administrative Assistant		Additional space in use.	

	<p>Expand access to its physical facilities during the nights and on weekends.</p> <p>Provide information and technology resources to comply with their academic and administrative responsibilities.</p>	<p>Provide an independent access to the School's facilities for students, Faculty and Administrative personnel.</p> <p>Continued support is needed for computer repair and updating of hardware and software:</p> <p>Revise and implement the Technology Plan.</p> <p>Submitting external proposals to obtain additional funds.</p> <p>Working projects for</p>	<p>Director and Administrative Assistant</p> <p>Director, Faculty and administrative personnel</p>		<p>Access to the School when the Library Building is closed.</p> <p>Sufficient and well maintained information technology and resources.</p>	<p>Plans for the relocation of the School in a more accessible area of the José M. Lázaro Building must be continued during academic year 2009-2010. The School's present and future space needs were included in a report submitted to Central Administration some time ago. It stressed the requirement for an independent external access to the School.</p> <p>Institutional funds have been used to update the existing School's technology. New equipment and software have been acquired for the whole School, including administrative areas.</p>
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	Work more closely with the GSIST Library to support its effective development.	the community under Intramural Practice Plan.  The Joint Faculty/Library Committee will continue to work in improving library services and resources.	Director (School and Library), and Faculty/Library Committee		Student and Faculty evidence satisfaction with improved library services and resources.	According to the students' survey, they are satisfied with the GSIST library services.
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